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NORTH CAROLINA
Farm Report
COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

No. 696 | Raleigh, N. C. | January 12, 1976

FARM NUMBERS CONTINUE SLIDE

The number of farms in North Carolina, estimated at 125,000 for 1976, dropped 5,000 from the previous year, and continued a downtrend which started in 1951. Total land in farms also continued to decline, dropping from 13,600,000 acres in 1975 to 13,200,000 in 1976. The average size of farms in the State -- a record-high 106 acres -- increased about one acre from 1975, marking larger farms each successive year since the early 1940's. (Generally, a farm is an agricultural operation with sales amounting to $50 during the year, except places with less than 10 acres need sales of at least $250.)

Farm numbers in North Carolina peaked at 304,000 in 1933; total farm land at 20,400,000 acres in 1932.

For the U. S., farm numbers totaled 2,808,480 during 1975, one percent fewer than in 1974. The 1976 preliminary estimate of 2,785,780 is also one percent less than the previous year.

(See Table, Page 2)

1976 LAND UTILIZATION SURVEY

The 1976 Land Utilization Survey will be conducted in January. All landowners of tracts of ten or more acres are urged to cooperate with their county officials by accurately reporting their 1975 land-use, crop acreage, and livestock inventories. In most counties landowners will make their reports directly to the township listers. However, there will be some counties conducting the survey by mail using questionnaires provided those counties by the N. C. Department of Agriculture.

INCREASE IN FARROWINGS INDICATED

North Carolina producers are planning an 8 percent increase in sows to farrow during December 1975 through May 1976, according to recent reports from a sample of swine producers. Breeding intentions indicate that 205,000 sows have been bred or will be bred to farrow during the six-month period compared with 190,000 during the previous December-May period.

During the six-month period, June-November 1975, N. C. producers farrowed 177,000 sows, a decrease of 4 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. The June-November pig crop totaled 1,283,000 pigs -- off 3 percent from the comparable period of 1974.

All hogs and pigs on N. C. farms December 1, 1975 are estimated at

(See Farrowings, Page 4)

TAR HEEL PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DOWN

The ''All Farm Products'' index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets during December is 173, down 1 point from November and 5 points from December 1974.

The ''All Crops'' index of prices received is up 2 points to 162. Notable changes are cotton up 11 points and grains up 6 points. Fruits are down 4 points and commercial vegetables are 2 points lower.

The ''Livestock and Livestock Products'' index declined 5 points from November. Poultry showed the largest drop of 9 points. Meat animals are down 3 points and dairy is unchanged. (See Table, Page 2, for additional data.)

U. S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP

The Index of Prices Received by Farmers increased 2 points (1 percent) during the month ended December 15, 1975. Contributing most to the increase since mid-November were higher prices for cattle, eggs, milk, and most commercial vegetables. Lower prices for hogs, wheat, and broilers were only partially offsetting. The index was 9 points (5 percent) above a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates for December 15 was 189, up 1 point (½ percent) from a month earlier. Lower prices for some food items and used autos were more than offset by higher prices for other commodities. The index was 10 points (6 percent) above a year earlier.

FARMS -- NORTH CAROLINA

Year	Number	Total Land	Average Size
	Thousands	*Thousand Acres*	*Acres*
1910	255	-	-
1920	273	-	-
1930	290	18,600	64
1940	300	20,000	67
1950	301	19,900	66
1960	212	17,800	84
1970	150	15,200	101
1971	145	14,800	102
1972	140	14,400	103
1973	137	14,200	104
1974	135	14,000	104
1975	130	13,600	105
1976	125	13,200	106

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARM PRICES INDEX NUMBERS

INDEX (1967 = 100)	Dec. 15 1972	Dec. 15 1973	Dec. 15 1974	Nov. 15 1975	Dec. 15 1975
NORTH CAROLINA					
Prices Received: All Farm Products...	126	160	3/ 178	174	173
All Crops.....	3/ 128	3/ 151	3/ 183	160	162
Tobacco.....	3/ 130	3/ 135	169	151	152
Cotton.....	113	217	147	197	208
Oil Bearing.....	136	193	3/ 217	171	170
Grains.....	110	196	243	183	189
Commercial Vegetables.....	3/ 128	3/ 161	3/ 185	3/ 183	181
Fruits.....	3/ 116	3/ 141	3/ 149	202	198
Livestock and Livestock Products.....	122	175	170	198	193
Meat Animals.....	153	197	172	216	213
Poultry.....	108	168	172	199	190
Dairy.....	3/ 119	3/ 160	3/ 159	169	169
UNITED STATES					
Prices Received, All Farm Products....	138	3/ 185	3/ 178	185	187
Prices Paid, Commodities & Services 1/	3/ 133	3/ 158	3/ 185	188	189
Parity Ratio 2/.....	105	3/ 121	99	98	99

1/ Including Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid. 3/ Revised.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRICES MIXED, FEED PRICES UP

The average prices North Carolina farmers received at local markets about mid-December were mixed. (See Table, Page 3.) Corn was up 9 cents from a month earlier, while soybeans were down 9 cents. Hogs declined $1.00 per hundredweight, beef cattle were up 60 cents per hundredweight, and veal calves were up 90 cents per hundredweight.

Prices paid for mixed dairy and poultry feeds were mostly up from the previous month. (See Table, Page 3.) Forty percent and over dairy feed showed the only decrease. It was down $3.00 per ton. Turkey grower was up $7.00 per ton. In the grain by-products category, bran was up 20 cents per hundredweight while middlings and corn meal were unchanged.

COMMODITY PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		Dec. 15 1974	Nov. 15 1975	Dec. 15 1975*	Dec. 15 1974	Nov. 15 1975	Dec. 15 1975*
		Dollars					
Tobacco	Lb.	1.110	992	1.020	1.161	1.016	1.037
Corn	Bu.	3.33	2.46	2.55	3.27	2.33	2.37
Wheat	Bu.	3.55	3.06	3.05	4.65	3.58	3.41
Oats	Bu.	1.69	1.42	1.45	1.70	1.40	1.42
Barley	Bu.	2.25	1.94	1.89	3.30	2.43	2.35
Rye	Bu.	3.47	2.37	2.16	2.66	2.34	2.21
Sorghum Grains	Cwt.	5.20	4.10	3.99	5.33	4.05	4.00
Soybeans	Bu.	6.98	4.50	4.41	7.03	4.45	4.28
Peanuts	Lb.	.206	.204	.206	.186	.197	.187
Cotton	Lb.	.430	.482	.507	.437	.497	.500
Cottonseed	Ton	122.00	81.00	75.00	130.00	95.50	89.00
Wool	Lb.	-	-	-	.434	.548	.528
Hogs	Cwt.	38.50	51.40	50.40	38.30	49.00	47.50
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	22.30	22.30	22.90	27.60	33.20	34.50
Veal Calves	Cwt.	28.40	27.50	28.40	24.80	29.20	30.70
Milk Cows	Hd.	310.00	300.00	315.00	414.00	433.00	448.00
Com'l. Broilers	Lb.	.215	.280	.240	.219	.272	.240
Turkeys	Lb.	.360	.400	.400	.313	.365	.360
Eggs 1/	Doz.	.679	.658	.717	.590	.577	.641
Milk, Whlse	Cwt.	10.30	10.80	10.80	.835	9.99	10.20
Potatoes	Cwt.	-	5.55	5.15	3.41	3.99	4.10
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt.	8.90	9.25	9.00	8.72	9.50	9.44
Apples, Com'l	Lb.	.107	.097	.093	.102	.087	.087
Hay, All	Ton	53.00	54.50	52.00	50.70	50.20	51.60
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	60.00	56.50	54.50	53.40	53.00	54.80
Other	Ton	52.50	54.50	52.00	44.90	44.20	45.20

*1/ Average of all eggs sold by farmers including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail by farmers. * Preliminary.*

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

TYPE OF FEED	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	Dec. 15 1974	Nov. 15 1975	Dec. 15 1975	Dec. 15 1974	Nov. 15 1975	Dec. 15 1975
	Per Ton - Dollars					
Mixed Dairy Feed:						
14% Protein	145.00	134.00	136.00	147.00	132.00	132.00
16% Protein	150.00	135.00	138.00	149.00	133.00	134.00
18% Protein	151.00	136.00	139.00	154.00	135.00	136.00
20% Protein	152.00	139.00	141.00	156.00	140.00	143.00
32% Protein	180.00	164.00	166.00	191.00	171.00	173.00
40% & Over	210.00	186.00	183.00	208.00	188.00	190.00
Poultry Feeds:						
Chick Starter	186.00	163.00	164.00	186.00	160.00	161.00
Broiler Grower	183.00	167.00	172.00	180.00	158.00	160.00
Laying Feed 1/	164.00	148.00	148.00	164.00	143.00	143.00
Turkey Grower 1/	182.00	160.00	167.00	184.00	164.00	165.00
	Per 100 Lbs. - Dollars					
Grain By-Products:						
Bran	8.00	7.40	7.60	7.74	7.17	7.26
Middlings	8.00	7.50	7.50	7.69	7.11	7.18
Corn Meal	7.60	7.00	7.00	7.99	6.62	6.56
High Protein Feeds:						
Cottonseed Meal 41%	10.50	9.30	9.30	9.94	9.31	9.37
Soybean Meal 44%	10.50	9.10	9.30	10.30	8.75	8.74

1/ Complete ration feeds which are fed without further mixing or supplementations.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER UP IN NOVEMBER

Commercial slaughter of livestock during November in the Tar Heel State totaled 51,336,000 pounds live weight, an increase of 8 percent over the same period last year.

Commercial production of red meat in the United States totaled nearly 3.0 billion pounds in November, 6 percent less than a year ago and 3 percent less than November 1973. (See Table below.)

Beef production totaled almost 2.0 billion pounds, 1 percent above November last year and 5 percent over November 1973.

FARROWINGS (Cont'd. From Page 1)

1,900,000 head, an increase of 1 percent from the 1,890,000 head on hand December 1, 1974.

Hog producers in the U. S. intend to farrow 5.4 million sows during December 1975 - May 1976, an increase of 8 percent from December 1974 - May 1975 but 16 percent less than the same period two years earlier. These indications and an allowance for projected litter size indicate a pig crop of 38.0 million, up 7 percent from a year earlier. (For more details, see Table on Page 5.)

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER 1/

SPECIES	NOVEMBER				JANUARY THROUGH NOVEMBER			
	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
NORTH CAROLINA	*Thous. Head*		*Thous. Lbs.*		*Thous. Head*		*Thous. Lbs.*	
Cattle	16.4	23.0	13,825	19,780	132.3	199.6	120,873	173,578
Calves	0.4	2.1	104	506	3.2	8.2	771	1,944
Sheep & Lambs	0.1	-	10	-	0.8	0.6	78	54
Hogs	146.0	135.0	33,726	31,050	1,716.0	1,536.0	391,248	343,430
TOTAL	162.9	160.1	47,665	51,336	1,852.3	1,744.4	512,970	519,006
UNITED STATES	*Million Head*		*Million Lbs.*		*Million Head*		*Million Lbs.*	
Cattle	3.3	3.5	3,306	3,420	33.6	37.3	34,936	37,111
Calves	0.3	0.5	84	137	2.7	4.7	686	1,339
Sheep & Lambs	0.6	0.5	66	58	8.2	7.2	863	752
Hogs	6.8	5.3	1,657	1,311	75.1	62.8	18,342	15,025
TOTAL	11.0	9.8	5,113	4,926	119.6	112.0	54,827	54,227

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

N. C. WHEAT ACREAGE DOWN, RYE UP

Winter wheat acreage seeded in North Carolina during the fall of 1975 (for 1976 crop) is estimated at 320,000 acres. This is 7 percent less than the previous year. Based on conditions around December 1, the crop should produce 10,560,000 bushels, 14 percent more than the 1975 crop.

U. S. growers seeded 57.2 million acres of wheat in the fall of 1975, the largest acreage since the record 61.2 million acres seeded for the 1949 crop. This is 2 percent above a year earlier and represents the sixth consecutive yearly increase.

The 1976 wheat production, based on condition of the crop as of December 1, 1975, is forecast at 1,496 million bushels, down 9 percent from the record large crop produced in 1975, but 8 percent above the crop of two years ago.

Acreage of rye seeded in North Carolina is estimated at 130,000 acres, 4 percent more than a year earlier.

The nation's rye acreage seeded for the 1976 crop totaled 3.03 million acres -- 4 percent less than the 1975 crop and the smallest of record.

HOGS AND PIGS -- DECEMBER 1, 1975 REPORT: Number On Farms, Sows Farrowing, and Pig Crop, 1974-1976

ITEM	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	1974	1975	1975 As % Of 1974	1974	1975	1975 As % Of 1974
	Thousand Head		Percent	Thousand Head		Percent
NUMBER ON FARMS DECEMBER 1:						
All hogs and pigs	1,890	1,900	101	55,062	49,602	90
Kept for breeding	274	304	111	7,416	7,634	103
Market	1,616	1,596	99	47,646	41,968	88
Market Hogs and Pigs By Weight Groups:						
Under 60 pounds	663	662	100	17,818	16,307	92
60-119 pounds	452	409	90	12,603	11,130	88
120-179 pounds	267	263	99	9,764	8,118	83
180-219 pounds	137	163	119	5,790	4,880	84
220 pounds and over	97	99	102	1,672	1,533	92
NUMBER ON FARMS JUNE 1:						
All hogs and pigs	2,010	1,660	83	59,437	48,165	81
Kept for breeding	342	266	78	8,905	7,405	83
Market	1,668	1,394	84	50,532	40,760	81
SOWS FARROWING:						
December 1/-February	110	97	88	2,679	2,159	81
March-May	109	93	85	3,693	2,810	76
December 1/-May	219	190	87	6,372	4,970	78
June-August	102	94	92	2,847	2,507	88
September-November	82	83	101	2,619	2,452	94
June-November	184	177	96	5,466	4,959	91
PIG CROP:						
December 1/-February	781	679	87	-	-	-
March-May	796	707	89	-	-	-
December 1/-May	1,577	1,386	88	45,075	35,534	79
June-August	734	677	92	-	-	-
September-November	590	606	103	-	-	-
June-November	1,324	1,283	97	38,879	35,772	92
PIGS PER LITTER:	Number		Percent	Number		Percent
December 1/-February	7.10	7.00	99	-	-	-
March-May	7.30	7.60	104	-	-	-
December 1/-May	7.20	7.29	101	7.07	7.15	101
June-August	7.20	7.20	100	-	-	-
September-November	7.20	7.30	101	-	-	-
June-November	7.20	7.25	101	7.11	7.21	101

FARROWING INTENTIONS	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES	
	1976 Sows	1976 AS % OF 1975	1976 Sows	1976 AS % OF 1975
	Thousand Head	Percent	Thousand Head	Percent
December 1/-February	103	106	-	-
March-May	102	110	-	-
December 1/-May	205	108	5,353	108

1/ December preceding year.

NOVEMBER HATCHERY PRODUCTION UP

Commercial hatcheries in the Tar Heel State produced 24,909,000 broiler-type chicks in November 1975. This is up 5 percent from the same month a year earlier. The egg-type hatch, at 161,000, was down from the November 1974 hatch of 462,000.

Broiler-type chicks hatched in the U. S. during November 1975 totaled 254.1 million, 11 percent more than the 228.4 million produced during November a year ago. The number of broiler-type eggs in incubators on December 1, 1975, at 221.4 million, was 8 percent above the number set a year ago.

Egg-type chicks hatched during November 1975 totaled 28.6 million, down 13 percent from the 33.0 million produced a year earlier.

CHICKS HATCHED -- NOVEMBER

STATE	BROILER-TYPE		EGG-TYPE		ALL TYPES	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
	Thousands					
North Carolina	23,723	24,909	462	161	24,185	25,070
South Carolina	1,749	2,064	842	658	2,591	2,722
Georgia	32,520	36,277	2,440	2,192	34,960	38,469
Florida	5,602	6,864	3,152	2,407	8,754	9,271
Delaware	10,807	12,108	1/	1/	10,807	12,108
Maryland	15,862	18,118	1/	1/	15,862	18,118
Virginia	6,284	6,898	719	512	7,003	7,410
UNITED STATES	228,381	254,088	33,005	28,642	261,386	282,730

1/ *U. S. total includes Delaware & Maryland to avoid disclosing individual operations.*

U. S. POULT PRODUCTION UP

The commercial hatch of turkey poults during November 1975, at 5.5 million, was 10 percent above a year earlier. The hatch of heavy breeds was up 13 percent from the same month last year to 4.2 million poults and light breed poults hatched were up 3 percent to 1.3 million.

The number of turkey eggs in incubators on December 1, at 10.1 million, was 14 percent above last year. Eggs for heavy breed turkeys were up 14 percent and light breeds were up 11 percent.

POULTS HATCHED -- NOVEMBER

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION	HEAVY BREEDS 1/		LIGHT BREEDS 2/		ALL BREEDS	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
	Thousands					
North Atlantic...	53	25	12	11	65	36
East North Central	622	486	290	217	912	703
West North Central	674	622	548	708	1,222	1,330
South Atlantic	1,308	1,701	417	342	1,725	2,043
South Central	592	642	0	0	592	642
West	436	688	35	57	471	745
UNITED STATES	3,685	4,164	1,302	1,335	4,987	5,499

1/ *Includes birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is 12 pounds or over.* 2/ *Includes birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is less than 12 pounds.*

CHICKENS AND TURKEYS IN FLOCKS TESTED FOR PULLORUM-TYPHOID

Heavy breed turkeys tested in North Carolina for pullorum disease during November 1975 totaled 16,545 compared with 51,083 a year earlier. No light breed turkeys were tested during November 1975 or 1974.

Chickens in U. S. broiler breeder flocks tested for pullorum-typhoid during November totaled 1.5 million, up 6 percent from November 1974. Testings January through November were 17.1 million, a decrease of 5 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Chickens in U. S. egg-type breeder flocks tested for pullorum-typhoid during November totaled 296 thousand, down 36 percent from November 1974. The number in flocks tested January through November was 3.9 million, down 16 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Heavy breed turkeys in U. S. flocks tested for pullorum-typhoid totaled 345 thousand, an increase of 16 percent from November 1974. Testings for July through November were 1.4 million, a decrease of 7 percent from the same period a year ago.

Light breed turkeys in U. S. flocks tested totaled 22 thousand, 1 percent below November 1974. The number in flocks tested July through November was 153 thousand, 11 percent above the corresponding period a year ago.

N. C. EGG PRODUCTION 5 PERCENT LOWER

Egg production during November on North Carolina farms was down 5 percent from last year. An estimated 233 million eggs were produced in the State. Layers on hand, at 12,050,000, were down 6 percent compared with November 1974. Production per hen was up from a year ago but not enough to offset the decline in the number of layers on hand, thus the decrease in total egg production.

The nation's laying flock produced 5,308 million eggs during November -- up slightly from November 1974. Layers on hand during November averaged 279 million, down 2 percent from a year earlier. The average rate of lay during the month was up 2 percent from the preceding year.

NUMBER OF LAYERS AND EGG PRODUCTION -- NOVEMBER

STATE	LAYERS ON HAND		EGGS PER 100 LAYERS		TOTAL EGGS PRODUCED	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
	Thousands		*Number*		*Millions*	
North Carolina	12,825	12,050	1,902	1,932	244	233
Virginia	3,184	3,399	1,875	1,905	60	65
South Carolina	5,430	6,115	1,956	1,890	106	116
Georgia	24,323	24,245	1,869	1,941	455	471
Florida	11,834	11,709	1,995	1,944	236	228
UNITED STATES	283,041	278,635	1,870	1,905	5,293	5,308

OUTLOOK FOR MORE TURKEYS AND BROILERS; SMALLER GAINS IN EGGS

Production prospects in the U. S. for 1976 indicate substantial increases over 1975 for broilers and turkeys with smaller gains for egg output, according to a report issued by USDA's Outlook and Situation Board in December 1975. Turkey and egg prices likely will weaken seasonally in the first half of 1976 while broiler prices should remain strong.

Egg production moved above year-ago levels in late summer as a result of a higher rate of lay per hen. Layer numbers gained on year-earlier levels but were still down about 1 percent as of November 1. However, a 2 percent higher rate of lay was offsetting.

Layer numbers are expected to gain

(See Outlook, Page 8)

further during the balance of 1975 and into early 1976.

Broiler meat output in federally inspected plants for all of 1975 will slightly exceed 1974's output of 7.9 billion pounds (ready-to-cook weight). The reduced output earlier this year will be offset by the large increases in the last 4 months of 1975. Easing feed prices and increasing broiler prices caused producers to sharply increase placements of broiler chicks for marketing during October-December by 12 percent from a year earlier.

Turkey output for 1975 will be down about 7 percent from 1974. Output was down sharply during the seasonally light first half of 1975 but has risen since midyear and October-December output may be 6 percent above the same months of 1974.

Turkey supplies will be below year-earlier levels in coming months despite increased output.

COMPARISON OF PRICES RECEIVED BY U. S. FARMERS AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY PRICES 1/		AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	Nov. 15 1975	Dec. 15 1975	Nov. 15 1975	Dec. 15 1975	Nov. 15 1975	Dec. 15 1975
	Dollars				*Percent*	
Cotton, Lb.	.497	.500	.7921	.7946	63	63
Wheat, Bu.	3.58	3.41	4.66	4.68	77	73
Corn, Bu.	2.33	2.37	3.10	3.11	75	76
Oats, Bu.	1.40	1.42	1.48	1.49	95	95
Barley, Bu.	2.43	2.35	2.58	2.59	94	91
Rye, Bu.	2.34	2.21	2.34	2.34	100	94
Beef Cattle, Cwt.	33.20	34.50	56.40	56.60	59	61
Hogs, Cwt.	49.00	47.50	48.80	49.00	100	97
Lambs, Cwt.	43.90	46.20	56.20	56.40	78	82
Eggs, Doz.	.577	.641	.773	.775	5/ 72	5/ 72
Milk, Whlse., Cwt. 2/.	3/ 9.99	4/ 10.20	11.60	11.60	5/ 82	5/ 84

1/ Parity prices as computed currently using base prices in effect and indexes for months indicated. 2/ Estimated average price for the month for all milk sold at wholesale to plants and dealers. 3/ Revised. 4/ Preliminary. 5/ Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices.

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ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY

'75 UNFAVORABLE FOR CROPS

Responding to expected strong demand for 1975 farm products, both domestically and abroad, Tar Heel farmers harvested in excess of 4.8 million acres of crops, about the same as a year earlier and at the highest level since the early 1960's.

The 1975 season proved generally unfavorable from the farmers point of view. While production costs continued high, prices received per unit for most crop items declined.

Weather was unusually erratic during 1975. A cold, wet spring was followed by a dry June, wet July, dry August, and a wet September. Many crops suffered sharp reductions in yield potentials. Corn yields were the lowest since 1971, and most small grain yields were below other recent years. Peanut and soybeans yields, too, were reduced by poor weather.

A 21-percent increase in flue-cured acreage resulted in the largest poundage produced since 1964. Leaf quality was lower over much of the belt and yields, especially in the northern Piedmont, were cut by weather. The largest burley crop since 1963 is indicated.

Cotton acreage dropped to the lowest point since records began in 1866, and estimated production, at 46,000 bales, was second only to the 43,000--bale disaster in 1967.

The 1975 fall harvest season was generally favorable to ideal. This helped significantly in preventing further losses to corn, soybeans, peanuts, and numerous other crops planted and grown under adverse conditions.

TOBACCO PRODUCTION UP SHARPLY

Flue-cured growers in North Carolina during 1975 experienced one of the most erratic seasons in years but still produced 932 million pounds--the largest since 1964 and 21 percent more than produced in 1974. Basic allotments were increased 15 percent but actual plantings were up nearly 21 percent.

Plant supplies were generally adequate and transplanting was completed on a normal schedule. Persistent hot, dry weather developed in late June, causing considerable wilting and burning in the crop. Alternating too dry and too wet conditions during the rest of the season kept the crop under stress most of the time. The northern Piedmont was particularly hard hit by weather excesses.

U. S. flue-cured production in 1975 is placed at 1,413 million pounds, up 14 percent from 1974.

MORE BURLEY

Burley production in N. C. is estimated at 21.6 million pounds for 1975, 14 percent over the previous crop. The U. S. crop is an indicated 638 million pounds, up 4 percent.

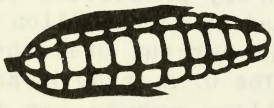
NOTICE: Due to a later release date by the Statistical Reporting Service, the usual "season's average price" and "value of production" data are not shown in this issue. These data will be shown in the next issue of the Farm Report to be published about February 10, 1976.

STATE'S CORN CROP DOWN BUT U. S. HITS RECORD

The State's 1975 corn production is estimated at 103.2 million bushels, down 11 percent from 1974. The lower production resulted from reduced yields and less acreage harvested.

The 1975 planting season was generally favorable and most of the acreage was planted by the end of May. However, the growing season was very erratic. The crop got off to a good start but conditions began to change in June as hot, dry weather prevailed in the main producing Coastal Plains Region. Much of the acreage was in the tasseling stage and sustained considerable damage, especially in the central Coastal Plains. July was a very wet month and August precipitation was well below normal. Heavy rains started again the latter half of September just as the early planted corn was ready to harvest. Combining was slow getting started but excellent progress was made in October and harvest was nearing completion by mid-November.

U. S. production of corn for grain in 1975 is estimated at a record 5,767 million bushels, 24 percent above last year and 2 percent above 1973, the previous record. The record crop was the result of larger acreage and improved yields over 1974 and increased acreage over 1973. The U. S. yield averaged 86.2 bushels per acre, up nearly 15 bushels from last year but down 5 bushels from 1973. Record yields occurred in 10 States, the most notable being Illinois which exceeded its previous record by 6 bushels per acre.



SORGHUM GRAIN DOWN SLIGHTLY

Production of sorghum grain in North Carolina in 1975 is estimated at 4,080,000 bushels, 2 percent less than 1974.

U. S. production of sorghum for grain is estimated at 758 million bushels, up 21 percent from a year earlier.

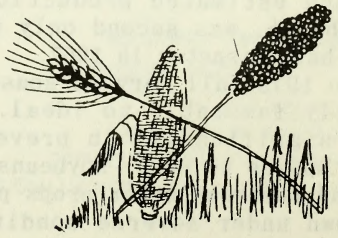
SOYBEAN CROP SECOND LARGEST

Soybean production in 1975 in North Carolina is estimated at 32.7 million bushels--7 percent above 1974 and second in size only to 1973's crop of 34.8 million bushels. A fairly respectable average yield of 23 bushels per acre was realized despite a late start due to a wet, cool spring and considerable stress during the growing season from soils ranging from too dry to too wet. Abandonment of acreage was higher than normal in some areas, particularly the Piedmont. The harvest season was generally favorable.

The Nation's 1975 soybean crop totaled 1,521 million bushels, the second largest crop of record. Increased acreage and higher yields from last year resulted in the increased production. The 1975 production is 25 percent more than last year but 2 percent less than the 1973 record crop of 1,547 million bushels. U. S. yield averaged 28.4 bushels per acre, the highest of record and compares with 23.2 bushels last year and 27.7 bushels for 1973.

Farmers planted 54.6 million acres, an increase of 2 percent from the 1974 crop but 4 percent less than the record 1973 crop. Planting of the crop was completed earlier than normal this year. Exceptions were Mississippi and Louisiana, where spring floods delayed planting. Growing conditions were good to excellent in most States except Iowa where dry conditions prevailed during the summer. Conditions improved during September in most States.

Weather conditions allowed harvest to progress faster than normal and three-fourths of the U. S. soybean crop had been harvested by November 1 compared with 68 percent last year and 65 percent average. By the end of November 95 percent of the crop was harvested, still slightly ahead of last year and normal.



PEANUTS HURT BY WEATHER

Problems with weather and diseases greatly reduced the potential of the State's 1975 peanut crop. Preliminary estimates place the crop at 382 million pounds (new weight), slightly below 1974's production of 384 million and well below 1973's record 466 million pounds.

Overcoming some delays in planting, the 1975 crop got off to a fairly good start. Excesses during the main growing season in soil conditions --too dry and too wet--prevented optimum development and fruiting. Further, diseases plus insects and weeds hampered the crop.

Peanut production in the U. S. is estimated at 3,867 million pounds, a record high and 5 percent above the previous record set in 1974. Harvested acreage totaled 1,500,200 acres, 28,100 more than last year. The average yield of 2,577 pounds is 86 pounds higher than the 1974 yield. Georgia, the largest producing State, has the highest average yield--3,320 pounds, up 100 pounds from a year ago.

N. C. NUMBER ONE IN YAMS

North Carolina lead the Nation in sweet potatoes in 1975, producing an estimated 4,640,000 cwt., or about a third of the U. S. total.

Transplanting of sweet potatoes in the State began in late April and was nearly complete by the middle of July. Relatively warm temperatures prevailed during transplanting, favoring the newly set plants. The stands were rated fair to excellent during 1975.

Harvest for fresh market began in early August at a light pace. Digging gained momentum during September and neared completion by the end of October.

The Nation's production of sweet potatoes in 1975 totaled 13.6 million cwt., 2 percent below the 13.9 million cwt. produced in 1974. The 1975 crop was produced from 119.4 thousand acres, a 2 percent decrease from the 121.7 thousand acres harvested in 1974. The average yield for 1975 equals the record 114 cwt. per acre set in 1974.

Excessive moisture in Louisiana during the growing season resulted in lower yields and reduced quality. In North Carolina, yields averaged above a year ago and in combination with the increase in harvested acreage resulted in a production, up 19 percent from the 3.9 million harvested in 1974.

FEWER IRISH POTATOES

During 1975, Irish potato production in North Carolina was down an estimated 13 percent to 2.4 million cwt. Production was down 8 percent in the U. S. to 316 million cwt.

A late frost in March damaged some of the State's early crop and delayed planting of the later crop. Erratic conditions--either too cool, too wet, or too dry--prevailed during much of the growing season across the State.

EXTREME WEATHER HURT 1975 VEGETABLES

Combined production of fresh market vegetables in North Carolina during 1975 was down about 3 percent from 1974. Production of cabbage, cucumbers, sweet corn, green peppers, watermelons, and strawberries decreased while snap beans and tomatoes increased.

The 1975 seasons were very erratic. Wet, cool weather hampered planting of most spring crops. This was followed by a killing frost in March which damaged many young plants. Planting of summer crops was generally on schedule but growth and development were hurt by a dry June followed by a wet July. Conditions were near normal for most fall vegetable crops.

ANNUAL SUMMARY: ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION, OF CROPS, 1973, 1974 REVISED, AND 1975 PRELIMINARY, NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES

CROPS	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
		1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975
		Thousand Acres			*Units*			*Thousands*		
NORTH CAROLINA										
FIELD CROPS										
Corn, for Grain	Bu.	1,400	1,570	1,540	82.0	74.0	67.0	114,800	116,180	103,180
for Silage 1/	Ton	120	125	130	15.0	14.0	13.0	1,800	1,750	1,690
for Forage 2/	-	20	15	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wheat, for Grain	Bu.	180	275	300	35.0	36.0	31.0	6,300	9,900	9,300
Oats, for Grain	Bu.	75	85	85	50.0	53.0	50.0	3,750	4,505	4,250
Barley, for Grain	Bu.	62	60	60	46.0	46.0	45.0	2,852	2,760	2,700
Rye, for Grain	Bu.	20	20	20	19.0	20.0	18.0	380	400	360
Sorghum, for Grain	Bu.	74	80	80	58.0	52.0	51.0	4,292	4,160	4,080
for Silage 1/	Ton	26	22	24	13.5	12.0	12.0	351	264	288
for Forage	-	8	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cotton, Lint 3/	Lb.	173	145	52	455	440	425	164	133	46
Cottonseed	Ton	-	-	-	-	-	-	59	44	16
Tobacco: Type 11	Lb.	149.0	152.0	179.0	1,905	1,790	1,710	283,845	272,080	306,090
Type 12	Lb.	180.0	188.0	229.0	2,255	2,110	2,145	405,900	396,680	491,205
Type 13	Lb.	47.0	50.0	62.0	2,210	2,030	2,165	103,870	101,500	134,230
All Flue-Cured	Lb.	376.0	390.0	470.0	2,111	1,975	1,982	793,615	770,260	931,525
Type 31	Lb.	7.5	8.0	9.0	2,440	2,370	2,400	18,300	18,960	21,600
Tobacco: All	Lb.	383.5	398.0	479.0	2,117	1,983	1,990	811,915	789,220	953,125
Lespedeza, for Seed	Lb.	4.5	3.0	3.0	160	140	150	720	420	450
HAY CROPS										
Alfalfa	Ton	13	13	13	2.65	2.35	2.60	34	31	34
All other	Ton	312	312	312	1.60	1.60	1.60	499	499	499
Hay, all	Ton	325	325	325	1.64	1.63	1.64	533	530	533
LEGUMES										
Soybeans, for Beans	Bu.	1,450	1,420	1,420	24.0	21.5	23.0	34,800	30,530	32,660
Peanuts, for Nuts	Lb.	166	166	166	2,810	2,315	2,300	466,460	384,290	381,800
FRUITS AND NUTS										
Apples, Commercial	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	210,000	295,000	275,000
Peaches	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	20,000	30,000
Grapes	Ton	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.40	3.10	3.82
Blueberries	Flats	4.2	3.7	3.9	160	140	175	668	518	683
Pecans, Improved	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	900	1,500	1,500
Seedlings	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	700	700	700
All	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,600	2,200	2,200
POTATOES										
Irish Potatoes: Spring	Cwt.	11.2	13.0	12.0	145	165	160	1,624	2,145	1,920
Summer	Cwt.	3.0	4.5	4.0	120	135	120	360	608	480
[illegible]	Cwt.	14.2	17.5	16.0	142	157	152	1,984	2,753	2,400

All	Cwt.	14.5	13.5	15.0	140	133	120	2,029	1,819	1,800
FRESH VEGETABLES		Actual Acres								
Snap Beans: Spring	Cwt.	3,200	2,900	2,800	20	27	25	64	78	70
Summer	Cwt.	4,000	3,800	3,800	43	40	48	172	152	182
Fall	Cwt.	650	50	300	29	20	40	19	1	12
All	Cwt.	7,850	6,750	6,900	33	34	38	255	231	264
Cabbage: Spring	Cwt.	2,400	2,200	2,100	96	120	110	230	264	231
Summer	Cwt.	3,200	3,100	3,300	250	215	185	800	667	611
Fall	Cwt.	2,000	1,900	2,500	135	140	130	270	266	325
All 4/	Cwt.	7,600	7,200	7,900	171	166	148	1,300	1,197	1,167
Corn, Sweet	Cwt.	5,500	4,800	4,800	69	76	60	380	365	288
Cucumbers	Cwt.	5,300	5,400	6,200	70	75	62	370	403	383
Green Peppers	Cwt.	7,400	7,800	8,000	44	42	35	326	328	280
Strawberries	Cwt.	2,100	2,000	2,200	32	28	23	67	56	48
Tomatoes	Cwt.	1,900	1,600	1,700	160	150	165	304	240	281
Watermelons	Cwt.	7,400	7,000	7,000	77	70	68	570	490	476
Total Fresh Market 5/	Cwt.	44,850	42,400	44,550	-	-	-	3,524	3,280	3,161
PROCESSING VEGETABLES										
All Vegetables	Ton	29,180	30,780	31,310	-	-	-	90.20	75.00	83.50
Cucumbers	Ton	27,500	28,800	29,500	3.09	2.40	2.71	85.00	69.10	79.80
Snap Beans 6/	Ton	1,300	1,500	-	2.00	2.17	-	2.60	3.25	-
Total All Crops 7/	-	4,601	4,831	4,827	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Thousand Acres			UNITED STATES					
Corn, for Grain	Bu.	61,894	65,357	66,905	91.2	71.4	86.2	5,646,806	4,663,631	5,766,991
All Wheat, for Grain	Bu.	53,869	65,613	69,656	31.7	27.4	30.6	1,705,167	1,796,187	2,133,803
Oats, for Grain	Bu.	14,065	13,206	13,650	47.4	46.5	48.1	666,867	613,777	656,862
Barley, for Grain	Bu.	10,452	8,168	8,711	40.3	37.2	44.0	421,527	304,112	382,980
Rye, for Grain	Bu.	1,033	897	814	25.4	21.5	22.0	26,263	19,293	17,875
Cotton, Lint 3/	Lb.	11,970	12,567	9,060	520	441	441	12,974	11,540	8,327
Cottonseed	Ton	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,016	4,557	3,260
Hay, All	Ton	62,099	60,571	61,863	2.17	2.10	2.15	134,751	127,143	132,917
Sorghum, for Grain	Bu.	15,853	13,876	15,484	58.7	45.3	49.0	930,012	629,222	758,454
Lespedeza, for Seed	Lb.	81.0	67.0	67.1	205	186	207	16,561	12,495	13,877
Soybeans, for Beans	Bu.	55,796	52,368	53,606	27.7	23.2	28.4	1,547,165	1,214,802	1,521,370
Peanuts, for Nuts	Lb.	1,496	1,472	1,500	2,323	2,491	2,577	3,473,837	3,667,604	3,866,615
Tobacco: Flue-Cured	Lb.	575.1	616.3	717.2	2,011	2,014	1,970	1,156,659	1,241,327	1,413,085
Burley	Lb.	222.1	260.8	278.5	2,028	2,350	2,292	450,416	612,649	638,330
All	Lb.	886.6	962.6	1083.5	1,965	2,067	2,016	1,742,105	1,989,728	2,184,075
Apples, Commercial	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,225,000	6,484,000	7,171,700
Peaches, Total	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,442,900	2,740,700	2,668,000
Grapes	Ton	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,193	4,186	4,338
Pecans, All	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	275,700	137,100	230,200
Irish Potatoes, All	Cwt.	1,305	1,391	1,257	230	246	251	299,410	342,060	315,647
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt.	113	122	119	111	114	114	12,534	13,921	13,642
Fresh Market Vegetables 5/	Cwt.	1,672	1,589	1,556	-	-	-	242,258	243,038	241,314
Processing Vegetables	Ton	1,722	1,769	1,864	-	-	-	10,644	11,774	13,493

1/ Green Weight. 2/ Includes corn hogged, grazed and that cut and fed without removing ears. 3/ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. 4/ Includes small quantities for processing. 5/ Acres and production of principal vegetables and melons for fresh market, including strawberries. 6/ 1975 not published separately to avoid disclosure of individual operations; included in all processing vegetable totals. 7/ Acres in thousands which include field crops, lespedeza seed, and commercial vegetables for fresh market and processing.

SMALL COTTON CROP

Cotton accelerated its downward trend in North Carolina during 1975 as harvested acres, at 52,000, reached a record low. Production, estimated at 46,000 bales, was within 3,000 bales of the near-failure of 1967.

Despite erratic weather during much of the growing season, producers who stayed with the crop made an average yield of about 425 pounds of lint per acre, only slightly below the two previous seasons. The State has never attained a bale per acre average (480 pounds of lint), the closest being 470 pounds in 1964.

U. S. cotton production in 1975 is estimated at 8,327,000 bales -- 8,271,000 Upland and 56,000 American Pima. Total production is 28 percent below 1974's crop and 36 percent below 1973's.

LARGER LESPEDEZA SEED CROP

Farmers in the State harvested an estimated 450,000 pounds of lespedeza seed in 1975, up 7 percent from 1974's output. Yields averaged 150 pounds (clean basis) per acre, up 10 pounds. Acreage harvested was a record low 3,000 acres, about the same as combined in 1974.

The estimated U. S. production of lespedeza seed for 1975 is 13.9 million pounds, up 1.4 million pounds from the 1974 crop. Acreage remained about the same as in 1974 but the higher yield resulted in the 11 percent increase in production.

Korean accounted for 59.5 percent of the 1975 crop compared to 50.7 percent in 1974. Striate Kobe made up 25.9 percent, compared with 34.8 percent in 1974, and Sericea accounted for most of the remainder.

COTTON REPORT AS OF JANUARY 1, 1976

STATE	ACRES HARVESTED		LINT PER ACRE		PRODUCTION 480-Lb. Net Wt. Bales		COTTONSEED PRODUCTION 4/	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
UPLAND	*Thousands*		*Pounds*		*Thousands*		*Thousands*	*Tons*
North Carolina	145	52	440	425	133	46	44	16
South Carolina	292	103	450	443	274	95	100	35
Georgia	410	155	490	434	419	140	150	51
Tennessee	510	315	290	335	308	220	125	87
Alabama	585	400	429	378	522	315	200	123
Missouri	330	210	335	446	230	195	98	81
Mississippi	1,710	1,125	448	448	1,595	1,050	600	394
Arkansas	1,130	780	374	431	880	700	350	271
Louisiana	635	310	423	542	560	350	210	134
Oklahoma	547	305	272	291	310	185	125	74
Texas	4,400	4,000	269	288	2,462	2,400	1,028	920
New Mexico	140	90	509	373	148	70	60	28
Arizona	392	268	1,218	1,003	995	560	439	258
California	1,238	875	1,006	1,064	2,595	1,940	1,020	786
Other 1/	20	6	456	400	19	5	8	2
U.S. UPLAND 2/	12,484	8,994	440	441	11,450	8,271	-	-
U.S. AM. PIMA 3/	82	66	526	404	90	56	-	-
U. S. ALL	12,566	9,060	441	441	11,540	8,327	4,557	3,260

1/ Virginia, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky and Nevada. 2/ Sum of State totals above. 3/ Includes total American Pima in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California; not included in individual State data above. 4/ State totals include America Pima.

APPLES -- HEAVY ABANDONMENT

Estimated total production of commercial apples in North Carolina during 1975 is 300 million pounds--tied with 1974 as the highest of record. However, for economic reasons--mainly low prices, under-sizing, poor quality, and scarce labor--an estimated 25 million pounds of the 1975 crop were abandoned, leaving 275 million pounds utilized. Some 295 million pounds were utilized from the 1974 crop.

The State's leading variety is Delicious, comprising 114 million pounds, or 38 percent of 1975's total production. Next in importance is Rome Beauty with 29 percent, Golden Delicious with 18 percent, and Stayman with 9 percent.

Light to moderate damage was sustained by orchards in low areas during the spring. Picking of early varieties began in August. By mid-November, harvest was essentially completed for the entire crop.

The Nation's 1975 commercial apple crop utilization was a record-high 7.2 billion pounds, 7 percent above the previous high of 6.7 billion pounds utilized in 1969. The 1975 crop was 11 percent more than the 1974 production and 15 percent above the 1973 crop. Utilized production in 1975 was 95 percent of the total apples produced compared with 99 percent of the total crop in 1974. Economic abandoment and excess cullage totaled 397 million pounds in 1975, sharply above the 49 million pounds estimated in 1974. Western States recorded an 18 percent larger crop than in 1974 while Central States were up 15 percent and Eastern States up 2 percent.

PEACH CROP REBOUNDS

Total production of peaches in North Carolina during 1975 is estimated at 30 million pounds compared with 1974's 20 million pounds.

Harvest of the State's peach crop began in late May, reaching peak volume in early July.

The 1975 utilized U. S. crop, at 2.7 billion pounds, was down 3 percent from the previous year but 9 percent above 1973. The decrease from 1974 is largely attributed to a smaller California clingstone crop. Georgia, one of the major southern peach States, recorded a production more than double the short 1974 crop.

GRAPE PRODUCTION HIGHER

Utilized production of grapes in North Carolina in 1975, estimated at 3,820 tons, was up 23 percent from 1974. About 87 percent of the production went to processing and 13 percent to fresh market. All processing grapes were utilized for wine.

The U. S. 1975 grape crop utilization is estimated at a record 4.3 million tons, 4 percent above 1974 and 3 percent above 1973.

California production was up 4 percent from 1974 and was the largest crop since 1965. Grapes produced in California accounted for 90 percent of the 1975 U. S. crop. Harvest of raisin variety grapes, at 2.2 million tons, was up 14 percent from a year ago. Output of table varieties, at 419,000 tons, fell 28 percent. Wine variety production continued to increase and set a new record at 1.3 million tons--3 percent over 1974.

PECAN PRODUCTION UNCHANGED

Pecan production in North Carolina in 1975 totaled an estimated 2,200,000 pounds--1,500,000 pounds of improved varieties and 700,000 of native and seedling. Total production in 1975 was about the same as a year earlier.

The U. S. 1975 pecan crop is estimated at 230.2 million pounds, 68 percent above the short 1974 crop but 17 percent less than the 1973 production. Improved varieties, at 114.3 million pounds, were up 34 percent from 1974. Native and seedling pecans totaled 115.9 million pounds, 2¼ times the 1974 crop.

Above normal rainfall in many areas resulted in higher than usual scab and other disease infestations. Nut droppage was also generally above average.

MORE MILK PRODUCED IN DECEMBER

North Carolina farms produced an estimated 138 million pounds of milk during December 1975, up 5 percent from the same month a year earlier. Output per cow, at 900 pounds, was a record high for a December.

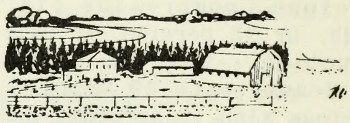
Milk production in the Nation during December totaled 9,275 million pounds, up 2 percent from a year earlier. The preliminary estimate for total 1975 milk production is 115,489 million pounds, virtually the same as the 1973 and 1974 production.

The average price of U. S. milk sold to plants was above the previous month in all regions. The average value of grain and other concentrates fed milk cows was above the previous month in all but the South Central region.

HAY TONNAGE UP

Hay production in North Carolina during 1975 is estimated at 533,000 tons--34,000 alfalfa and 499,000 all other. The total is up fractionally from 1974.

For the U. S., production in 1975 was about 133 million tons--78 million alfalfa and 55 million other kinds. The total is nearly 5 percent greater than 1974's outturn.



MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION -- DECEMBER

State	Milk Cows On Farms 1/			Milk Per Cow 2/			Milk Production			
	1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975	1975 As % Of 1974
	Thousands			*Pounds*			*Million Pounds*			*Percent*
N. C.	155	152	153	800	860	900	124	131	138	105
Va.	161	159	159	815	870	880	131	138	140	101
Md.	135	138	140	895	935	920	121	129	129	100
Ga.	130	130	129	760	815	800	99	106	103	97
Fla.	205	202	194	740	770	835	152	156	162	104
U. S.	11,293	11,212	11,098	802	810	836	9,052	9,087	9,275	102

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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'75 CROP VALUES DROP

The combined value of field crops, vegetables, fruits and nuts produced in North Carolina in 1975 is estimated at $1,675 million, 2 percent less than the value for 1974 crops. The value includes receipts for quantities sold and to be sold and value of crops used on farms.

The 1975 flue-cured tobacco crop value of $929 million is 14 percent larger than the previous year. Prices per pound averaged 99.7 cents compared with 105.6 cents in 1974.

Corn for grain is valued at $279 million compared with $369 million a year earlier. Reduced production and lower prices per bushel were responsible for the decline.

Soybean value is estimated at $152 million compared with $208 million a year earlier. Peanuts are valued at $76 million dollars, 10 percent more than 1974. See table, page 2, for details by crops.

PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DECLINES

The ''All Farm Products'' index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets during January is 171, down 2 points from the 173 computed for December.

The ''All Crops'' index of prices received is up 1 point. Cotton shows the largest jump, up 13 points, while fruits dropped 6 points.

The ''Livestock and Livestock Products'' index is down 5 points to 188. All components of the livestock index dropped from December.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARM PRICES INDEX NUMBERS

INDEX (1967 = 100)	Jan. 15 1973	Jan. 15 1974	Jan. 15 1975	Dec. 15 1975	Jan. 15 1976
NORTH CAROLINA					
Prices Received: All Farm Products...	133	3/ 164	3/ 176	173	171
All Crops...	3/ 130	3/ 155	3/ 178	3/ 161	162
Tobacco...	130	134	3/ 161	152	152
Cotton...	3/ 119	3/ 291	156	208	221
Oil Bearing...	144	198	217	170	171
Grains...	118	210	239	189	189
Commercial Vegetables...	126	3/ 184	186	3/ 179	181
Fruits...	3/ 120	3/ 138	185	198	192
Livestock and Livestock Products...	3/ 139	3/ 181	3/ 173	193	188
Meat Animals...	160	203	169	213	210
Poultry...	133	176	177	190	184
Dairy...	3/ 121	3/ 161	3/ 165	3/ 170	169
UNITED STATES					
Prices Received, All Farm Products...	3/ 144	3/ 198	3/ 172	187	186
Prices Paid, Commodities & Services 1/	3/ 137	3/ 165	3/ 181	189	191
Parity Ratio 2/...	107	3/ 126	3/ 95	99	97

1/ Including Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid. 3/ Revised.

ANNUAL SUMMARY: PRICE AND VALUE OF CROPS, 1973, 1974 REVISED, AND 1975 PRELIMINARY, NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES

CROPS	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA						UNITED STATES					
		SEASON AVERAGE PRICE 1/			VALUE OF PRODUCTION 2/			SEASON AVERAGE PRICE 1/			VALUE OF PRODUCTION 2/		
		1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975
		Dollars			Thousand Dollars			Dollars			Thousand Dollars		
Corn, for Grain	Bu.	2.42	3.18	2.70	277,816	369,452	278,586	2.55	3.02	2.49	14,401,831	14,121,816	14,381,692
All Wheat, for Grain	Bu.	2.88	3.29	2.80	18,144	32,571	26,040	3.95	4.09	3.49	6,719,246	7,338,354	7,435,212
Oats, for Grain	Bu.	1.10	1.44	1.45	4,125	6,487	6,163	1.18	1.53	1.46	784,532	933,357	955,293
Barley, for Grain	Bu.	1.54	1.87	1.80	4,392	5,161	4,860	2.13	2.79	2.52	888,706	833,767	949,498
Rye, for Grain	Bu.	1.83	2.85	2.30	695	1,140	828	1.91	2.51	2.32	49,483	48,292	41,338
Sorghum, for Grain	Bu.	2.17	2.74	2.38	9,314	11,398	9,710	2.14	2.78	2.37	1,995,150	1,742,588	1,787,333
Cotton, Lint	Lb.	.596	.419	.494	46,951	26,732	10,908	.446	.429	.488	2,779,504	2,374,064	1,949,754
Cottonseed	Ton	92.50	131.00	86.00	5,458	5,764	1,376	100.10	135.40	97.50	501,911	616,810	317,878
Tobacco: Type 11	Lb.	.879	1.057	.975	249,500	287,589	298,438	-	-	-	-	-	-
Type 12	Lb.	.888	1.060	1.010	360,439	420,481	496,117	-	-	-	-	-	-
Type 13	Lb.	.871	1.038	1.000	90,471	105,357	134,230	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Flue-Cured	Lb.	.883	1.056	.997	700,410	813,427	928,785	.881	1.050	3/	1,019,292	1,303,779	3/
Type 31	Lb.	.917	1.080	1.020	16,781	20,477	22,037	.929	1.137	3/	418,335	696,590	3/
All Tobacco	Lb.	.883	1.057	.998	717,191	833,904	950,817	.901	1.086	1.021	1,569,440	2,159,875	2,229,735
Lespedeza, for Seed	Lb.	.386	.432	.430	278	181	194	.327	.359	.324	6,131	4,527	4,520
Hay, All	Ton	42.50	48.50	53.00	22,653	25,705	28,249	41.60	50.80	51.90	5,023,143	5,827,456	6,512,842
Soybeans, for Beans	Bu.	5.58	6.81	4.65	194,184	207,909	151,869	5.68	6.64	4.63	8,786,680	8,069,585	7,043,799
Peanuts, for Nuts	Lb.	.166	.180	.200	77,432	69,172	76,360	.162	.179	.197	562,460	657,574	758,579
Apples, Commercial	Lb.	.0640	.0620	.0680	13,440	18,290	18,700	.0880	.0840	.0780	545,723	546,275	556,789
Peaches	Lb.	.1130	.1320	.1750	3,390	2,640	5,250	.0830	.0940	.1090	202,912	258,783	290,051
Grapes	Ton	333.00	306.00	231.00	1,132	949	882	162.00	138.00	128.00	680,079	580,409	553,865
Blueberries	Flat	4.25	4.60	5.05	2,836	2,377	3,449	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pecans: Improved	Lb.	.450	.500	.450	405	750	675	.426	.524	.464	61,361	44,876	53,051
Seedling	Lb.	.260	.350	.400	182	245	280	.303	.382	.341	39,854	19,683	39,486
All	Lb.	.367	.452	.434	587	995	955	.367	.471	.402	101,215	64,559	92,537
Irish Potatoes	Cwt.	8.41	7.85	8.66	16,630	21,611	20,784	4.89	3.98	4.81	1,467,686	1,360,423	1,519,837
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt.	6.40	8.20	9.30	23,200	32,103	43,152	7.32	7.76	9.13	91,857	107,961	124,529
FRESH MARKET VEGETABLES: Snap Beans: Spring	Cwt.	20.60	13.50	22.00	1,318	1,053	1,540	18.10	16.10	20.80	14,044	13,759	17,108
Summer	Cwt.	18.50	17.40	20.00	3,182	2,645	3,640	17.20	17.01	19.20	20,428	19,848	22,650
Fall	Cwt.	14.40	20.00	16.50	274	20	198	17.10	23.80	17.80	10,742	12,229	9,654
All	Cwt.	18.72	16.10	20.37	4,774	3,718	5,378	17.90	18.60	19.50	54,189	54,439	59,699
Cabbage: Spring	Cwt.	6.61	5.02	6.14	1,520	1,325	1,418	6.55	4.54	5.42	30,108	19,721	23,050
Summer	Cwt.	7.28	3.46	3.69	5,827	2,311	2,253	5.54	3.41	3.83	34,325	23,072	28,607
Fall	Cwt.	3.63	4.10	3.94	980	1,091	1,281	3.62	3.66	4.16	27,346	29,050	31,460
All 4/	Cwt.	6.41	3.95	4.24	8,327	4,727	4,952	5.09	3.89	4.55	121,416	95,409	111,469
Corn, Sweet	Cwt.	7.30	6.20	8.38	2,774	2,263	2,413	6.79	7.84	8.44	92,606	101,940	115,839
Cucumbers	Cwt.	8.14	9.78	9.72	3,014	3,942	3,721	9.34	10.40	10.10	39,431	48,282	48,358
Green Peppers	Cwt.	11.10	11.10	16.30	3,619	3,641	4,564	13.90	14.50	16.50	65,739	76,021	85,982
Strawberries	Cwt.	35.60	32.50	42.40	2,385	1,820	2,035	27.60	28.70	30.50	131,592	152,759	165,046
Tomatoes	Cwt.	13.20	14.30	14.80	4,013	3,432	4,159	16.00	17.30	18.40	312,148	345,241	367,283
Watermelons	Cwt.	2.20	3.30	2.85	1,254	1,617	1,357	2.95	3.81	4.01	77,465	88,572	97,393
Total Fresh Market	Cwt.	-	-	-	30,056	25,110	28,531	-	-	-	1,986,662	2,020,506	2,263,431
All Vegetables, Proc. 5/	Ton	-	-	-	9,447	10,316	11,127	-	-	-	549,361	927,084	1,037,770
Cucumbers, Proc. 5/	Ton	105.00	138.00	133.00	8,925	9,536	10,613	99.30	131.00	129.00	59,448	77,954	86,730
Snap Beans, Proc. 5/	Ton	146.00	186.00	6/	380	605	6/	103.00	157.00	156.00	76,241	117,654	103,500
Total, All Crops	-	-	-	-	1,476,515	1,707,590	1,675,341	-	-	-	54,817,163	56,413,567	55,694,988

NOTE: See January 22, 1976 "Farm Report" for acres, yield, and production of crops. 1/ Received by farmers. 2/ Values are for the crop year and should not be confused with calendar year income. 3/ Not available. 4/ Includes small quantities for processing. 5/ Prices for processing vegetables are plant door [illegible] published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

STATE'S HONEY CROP SMALLER

North Carolina apiaries produced 3,315,000 pounds of honey in 1975, down 16 percent from the 3,927,000 pounds produced in 1974. In mid-December producers reported 1975 production from 195,000 colonies, up 4 percent from last year. However, average production per colony was down 19 percent to 17 pounds.

Tar Heel honey producers received an average price of 71.9 cents per pound for honey sold, up 7.3 cents from 1974. The 1975 crop is valued at 2.4 million dollars. There were 398,000 pounds of honey stocks on hand for sale on December 15 compared with 589,000 pounds carried over in 1974. Beeswax production decreased from 118,000 pounds in 1974 to 99,000 pounds in 1975. Producers received an average of 90 cents per pound for a total value of $89,000.

Honey produced in the United States during 1975 totaled 196.5 million pounds, up 6 percent from the 1974 crop. The 1975 honey crop was produced by 4.2 million colonies, down slightly from the previous year. Yield of honey per colony was 47.2 pounds, up 7 percent from 1974. Beeswax production totaled 3.4 million pounds in 1975, down 12 percent from 1974.

ANNUAL HONEY CROP -- 1974 Revised, 1975 PRELIMINARY

STATE	Colonies Of Bees		Yield Per Colony		Honey Production		Stocks On Hand For Sale Dec. 15	Average Price Per Pound		Value Of Production	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
	Thousands		*Pounds*		*Thousand Pounds*		*Thousand Pounds*	*Cents*		*Thousand Dollars*	
N. C.	187	195	21	17	3,927	3,315	398	.646	.719	2,537	2,383
Md.	12	11	22	23	264	253	30	.671	.681	177	172
Va.	79	76	28	27	2,212	2,052	205	.525	.497	1,161	1,020
W. Va.	97	89	14	19	1,358	1,691	237	.697	.793	947	1,341
S. C.	55	50	14	14	770	700	70	.567	.626	437	438
Ga.	161	153	23	28	3,703	4,284	343	.496	.494	1,837	2,116
Fla.	368	360	44	68	16,192	24,480	2,938	.443	.442	7,173	10,820
Minn.	147	138	65	79	9,555	10,902	1,308	.514	.476	4,911	5,189
Texas	210	208	49	62	10,290	12,896	1,290	.457	.459	4,703	5,919
Calif.	500	500	47	49	23,500	24,500	4,900	.439	.419	10,317	10,266
U. S.	4,195	4,163	44.1	47.2	185,079	196,540	32,706	.510	.506	94,372	99,441

BEESWAX

STATE	Production		Price Per Pound		Value	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
	Thousand Pounds		*Cents*		*Thousand Dollars*	
N. C.	118	99	.95	.90	112	89
Del.	1	1	1.20	1.40	1	1
Md.	6	4	1.20	1.40	7	6
Va.	38	31	1.22	1.06	46	33
W. Va.	23	25	.95	1.00	22	25
S. C.	18	15	.93	1.11	17	17
Ga.	93	77	1.09	1.11	101	85
Fla.	259	343	1.20	.95	311	326
Minn.	172	185	1.07	1.05	184	194
Calif.	376	441	1.16	1.04	436	459
U. S.	3,405	3,353	1.14	1.02	3,891	3,435

LESS CHICKENS ON FARMS

Chickens on North Carolina farms as of December 1, 1975 are estimated at 18 million, down 4 percent from December 1, 1974. This total comprises 12 million hens and pullets of laying age, 3 million pullets 3 months old and older but not of laying age, 2.3 million pullets under 3 months, and 684,000 other chickens. The average value per head of these chickens is estimated at $1.55 and total value at $27.9 million.

In the U. S., there were 379 million chickens on farms on December 1, 1975, down 1 percent from 1974. Of these, 280 million were hens and pullets of laying age. The average value of chickens was $1.74 per head and the total value was $660 million.

COMMODITY AND FEED PRICES SHOW LITTLE CHANGE

Changes in average prices Tar Heel farmers received at local markets about mid-January compared with a month earlier were mostly minor (see Table, Page 5). Corn was up 1 cent per bushel, soybeans up 2 cents, and sorghum grains up 14 cents. Hogs declined $2.00 per hundredweight while beef cattle rose $1.30.

Prices paid for mixed dairy and poultry feeds were mixed (see Table, Page 5). Lower percentage protein dairy feeds were unchanged from last month; 32 percent protein feed was down $1.00 per ton. Chick starter and broiler grower were both up $2.00 and laying feed and turkey grower were both down $1.00 per ton. Grain by-products were all down 10 cents per hundredweight, but high protein feeds were up.

NORTH CAROLINA GRAIN STOCKS DOWN

Grains stored on January 1, 1976 in all storage positions in North Carolina were down 8 percent from a year earlier. Decreases in corn, wheat, oats and sorghum grain were partly offset by increases in barley and soybeans.

January 1 U. S. stocks of all wheat, at 37.7 million metric tons, were 25 percent above a year earlier. Stocks of the four feed grains (corn, oats, barley and sorghum) totaled 138 million metric tons, 21 percent above January 1, 1975 holdings.

STOCKS OF GRAINS -- JANUARY 1

CROP	OFF-FARM TOTAL 1/		ON-FARM TOTAL		TOTAL ALL POSITIONS 2/	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousand Bushels					
NORTH CAROLINA						
Corn for grain	17,533	18,750	53,443	44,367	70,976	63,117
Wheat	2,170	2,581	2,178	1,488	4,348	4,069
Oats	281	573	1,622	1,275	1,903	1,848
Barley	188	175	828	918	1,016	1,093
Rye	*	*	34	18	*	*
Sorghum Grain	488	595	2,246	1,754	2,734	2,349
Soybeans	9,375	9,998	11,907	11,758	21,282	21,756
UNITED STATES						
Corn for grain	1,080,024	1,269,242	2,540,658	3,161,980	3,620,682	4,431,222
Wheat	661,171	838,393	446,362	546,513	1,107,533	1,384,906
Oats	122,512	93,981	384,094	406,986	506,606	500,967
Barley	102,728	114,899	125,245	162,004	227,973	276,903
Rye	5,509	3,933	6,509	5,735	12,018	9,668
Sorghum Grain	257,843	312,517	122,856	163,433	380,699	475,950
Soybeans	505,392	665,454	483,869	580,739	989,261	1,246,193

*1/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, processors, and CCC-owned grain at bin sites. 2/ Off-farm total plus farm stocks. * Not published to avoid disclosing individual reports.*

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

TYPE OF FEED	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	Jan. 15 1975	Dec. 15 1975	Jan. 15 1976	Jan. 15 1975	Dec. 15 1975	Jan. 15 1976
	Per Ton - Dollars					
Mixed Dairy Feed:						
14% Protein	144.00	136.00	136.00	146.00	132.00	132.00
16% Protein	146.00	138.00	138.00	148.00	134.00	136.00
32% Protein	183.00	166.00	165.00	186.00	173.00	175.00
Poultry Feeds						
Chick Starter	182.00	164.00	166.00	181.00	161.00	161.00
Broiler Grower	185.00	172.00	174.00	176.00	160.00	158.00
Laying Feed 1/	164.00	148.00	147.00	160.00	143.00	143.00
Turkey Grower 1/	178.00	167.00	166.00	178.00	165.00	165.00
	Per 100 Lbs. - Dollars					
Grain By-Products						
Bran	8.40	7.60	7.50	8.00	7.26	7.36
Middlings	8.20	7.50	7.40	7.88	7.18	7.25
Corn Meal	7.50	7.00	6.90	7.80	6.56	6.55
High Protein Feeds						
Cottonseed Meal 41%	10.00	9.30	9.50	9.83	9.37	9.47
Soybean Meal 44%	10.50	9.30	9.40	9.86	8.74	8.81

1/ *Complete ration feeds which are fed without further mixing or supplementations.*

COMMODITY PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		Jan. 15 1975	Dec. 15 1975	Jan. 15 1976*	Jan. 15 1975	Dec. 15 1975	Jan. 15 1976*
		Dollars					
Tobacco	Lb.	.865	1.020	1.035	1.038	1.037	1.067
Corn	Bu.	3.26	2.55	2.56	3.07	2.37	2.44
Wheat	Bu.	3.57	3.05	2.96	4.11	3.41	3.43
Oats	Bu.	1.74	1.45	1.52	1.62	1.42	1.44
Barley	Bu.	2.20	1.89	1.92	3.17	2.35	2.31
Rye	Bu.	3.31	2.16	2.16	2.50	2.21	2.33
Sorghum Grains	Cwt.	5.20	3.99	4.13	4.96	4.00	4.06
Soybeans	Bu.	6.54	4.41	4.43	6.30	4.28	4.46
Peanuts	Lb.	-	.206	-	.175	.187	-
Cotton	Lb.	.380	.507	.540	.421	.500	.499
Cottonseed	Ton	119.00	75.00	77.00	128.50	89.00	89.90
Wool	Lb.	-	-	-	.405	.528	.484
Hogs	Cwt.	38.20	50.40	48.40	38.20	47.50	47.50
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	21.20	22.90	24.20	27.60	34.50	33.50
Veal Calves	Cwt.	26.80	28.40	31.80	23.90	30.70	31.40
Milk Cows	Hd.	300.00	315.00	320.00	403.00	448.00	458.00
Com'l. Broilers	Lb.	.235	.240	.240	.242	.240	.243
Turkeys	Lb.	.340	.400	.360	.318	.360	.336
Eggs 1/	Doz.	.664	.717	.707	.571	.641	.622
Milk, Whlse	Cwt.	10.55	10.90	10.80	8.29	10.30	10.20
Potatoes	Cwt.	-	5.15	-	3.32	4.10	4.52
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt.	9.10	9.00	9.30	9.30	9.44	9.57
Apples, Com'l	Lb.	.105	.093	.086	.098	.087	.085
Lespedeza Seed	Cwt.	43.00	43.00	42.80	41.90	32.40	35.30
Hay, All	Ton	51.00	52.00	54.00	50.10	51.60	52.70
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	55.00	54.50	57.00	53.00	54.80	56.20
Other	Ton	51.00	52.00	54.00	44.70	45.20	46.40

1/ *Average of all eggs sold by farmers including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail by farmers.* * *Preliminary.*

POULT HATCH INCREASES

The U. S. commercial hatch of turkey poults during December 1975, at 7.8 million, was up 19 percent from a year earlier. The hatch of heavy breeds was up 19 percent while the hatch of light breeds was down 20 percent.

The number of turkey eggs in incubators in the U. S. on January 1, 1976, at 13.6 million, was 20 percent above the previous January 1. Eggs for heavy breed turkeys were up 17 percent and light breeds 39 percent. *(Table, Page 7)*

1976 TURKEY INTENTIONS UP

Turkey growers in N. C. intend to produce 14.9 million turkeys during 1976, 3 percent above 1975. The State ranks second only to Minnesota in production intentions.

Growers in the 20 major States intend to raise 127.1 million turkeys in 1976, 6 percent more than in 1975.

On December 1, 1975 there were an estimated 314,000 turkey breeder hens on N. C. farms, 18 percent more than a year earlier. *(See Table, Page 7)*

DECEMBER EGG PRODUCTION DOWN

Estimated egg production in North Carolina during December 1975, at 239 million, was down 6 percent from December 1974. The number of layers on hand during December was 12,000,000 compared to 13,000,000 a year earlier. Eggs laid per 100 layers, at 1,993, is a record high for December.

NUMBER OF LAYERS AND EGG PRODUCTION -- DECEMBER

STATE	Layers On Hand		Eggs Per 100 Layers		Total Eggs Produced	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
	Thousands		*Number*		*Millions*	
North Carolina	13,000	12,000	1,965	1,993	255	239
Virginia	3,192	3,398	1,993	1,978	64	67
South Carolina	5,460	6,045	2,021	1,953	110	118
Georgia	24,205	24,429	1,925	2,018	466	493
Florida	12,003	11,594	2,003	1,996	240	231
United States	284,852	279,459	1,934	1,963	5,509	5,484

HATCHERY PRODUCTION HIGHER

Commercial hatcheries in North Carolina produced 26,784,000 chicks during December 1975, up 2 percent from December 1974.

For the United States, the December hatch, at 302,059,000, was up 6 percent. The number of eggs in incubators on January 1, 1976 throughout the nation was up 9 percent; for the South Atlantic States, it was up 7 percent.

CHICKS HATCHED -- DECEMBER

STATE	Broiler-Type		Egg-Type		All Types	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
	Thousands					
North Carolina	25,879	26,687	350	97	26,229	26,784
South Carolina	1,892	1,983	532	507	2,424	2,490
Georgia	36,325	38,912	2,094	2,170	38,419	41,082
Florida	6,111	7,010	3,408	2,886	9,519	9,896
Delaware	11,744	12,764	1/	1/	11,744	12,764
Maryland	16,923	18,577	1/	1/	16,923	18,577
Virginia	7,241	7,802	396	652	7,637	8,454
UNITED STATES	252,495	270,999	32,159	31,060	284,654	302,059

1/ *Not published separately, to avoid disclosing individual operations.*

POULTS HATCHED -- DECEMBER

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION (U.S.)	Heavy Breeds 1/		Light Breeds 2/		All Breeds	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
	Thousands					
North Atlantic	99	17	6	19	105	36
East North Central	511	690	261	264	772	954
West North Central	1,113	1,512	597	807	1,710	2,319
South Atlantic	1,366	1,765	338	355	1,704	2,120
South Central	772	993	16	0	788	993
West	1,378	1,276	66	96	1,444	1,372
UNITED STATES	5,239	6,253	1,284	1,541	6,523	7,794

1/ Birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is 12 pounds or over.
2/ Birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is less than 12 pounds.

TURKEYS: Number Raised In 1975 and To Be Raised In 1976

STATE	Heavy Breeds		Light Breeds		All Breeds		
	1975	1976 1/	1975	1976 1/	1975	1976 1/	1976 As % Of 1975
	Thousand Head						Percent
North Carolina 2/	-	-	-	-	14,400	14,900	103
Arkansas 2/	-	-	-	-	7,100	9,372	132
California	15,017	13,515	754	754	15,771	14,269	90
Georgia	1,216	1,228	-	-	1,216	1,228	101
Minnesota	15,549	16,637	7,203	7,923	22,752	24,560	108
South Carolina	2,235	2,347	350	355	2,585	2,702	105
Texas	8,700	9,150	145	150	8,845	9,300	105
Virginia 2/	5,267	-	705	-	5,972	6,533	109
Wisconsin	4,886	5,033	8	8	4,894	5,041	103
20 STATE TOTAL	106,120	112,490	13,840	14,565	119,960	127,055	106

1/ Intended. 2/ Breakdown by breeds conbined to avoid disclosing individual operations.

TURKEY BREEDER HENS: Number On Farms and Value, December 1, 1974-75

STATE	Number		Average Value Per Head		Total Value	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
	Thousand Head		Dollars		Thousand Dollars	
North Carolina	265	314	8.80	13.00	2,332	4,082
California	716	627	10.20	10.50	7,303	6,584
Georgia	27	38	11.00	8.50	297	323
Minnesota	479	518	8.40	7.80	4,024	4,040
South Carolina	55	78	8.60	12.80	473	998
Texas	415	482	10.90	11.90	4,524	5,736
Virginia	96	123	9.20	11.30	883	1,390
26 STATE TOTAL						
All Breeds	2,943	3,044	9.85	10.79	28,989	32,853
Heavy Breeds	2,580	2,602	-	-	-	-
Light Breeds	363	442	-	-	-	-

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER HIGHER

Commercial slaughter of livestock during December in N. C. totaled 55,163,000 pounds live weight, an increase of 22 percent from the same period last year. Cattle slaughter increased 58 percent to 19,613,000 pounds live weight. Hog slaughter, at 35,400,000 live weight, was also above the previous December.

The total live weight of all species slaughtered during all of 1975 was 574,169,000 pounds, 3 percent over 1974. However, total numbers slaughtered decreased 5 percent to 1,917,800.

Commercial production of red meat in the U. S. totaled nearly 3.2 billion pounds in December, 2 percent above a year ago and 9 percent above December 1973.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER 1/

SPECIES	DECEMBER				JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER			
	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
	Thous. Head		*Thous. Lbs.*		*Thous. Head*		*Thous. Lbs.*	
				NORTH CAROLINA				
Cattle.....	14.6	22.7	12,410	19,613	146.9	222.3	133,283	193,191
Calves.....	.5	.7	127	150	3.7	8.9	898	2,094
Sheep & Lambs.	-	-	-	-	.8	.6	78	54
Hogs.....	143.0	150.0	32,604	35,400	1,859.0	1,686.0	423,852	378,830
TOTAL.....	158.1	173.4	45,141	55,163	2,010.4	1,917.8	558,111	574,169
	Million Head		*Million Lbs.*		*Million Head*		*Million Lbs.*	
				UNITED STATES				
Cattle.....	3.2	3.6	3,311	3,613	36.8	40.9	38,247	40,724
Calves.....	0.3	0.5	83	137	3.0	5.2	769	1,476
Sheep & Lambs.	0.6	0.6	65	66	8.8	7.8	928	928
Hogs.....	6.7	5.8	1,632	1,434	81.8	68.7	19,975	16,459
TOTAL.....	10.8	10.5	5,091	5,250	130.4	122.6	59,919	59,587

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

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NORTH CAROLINA
Farm Report
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No. 699 | Raleigh, N. C. | February 18, 1976

JANUARY UNSEASONABLY COLD

North Carolina was cold and wet during January. A rather strong cold front brought in some of the season's coldest weather during the early part of the month. Temperatures plummeted into or near record breaking levels. Lows from zero to 10 above were reported for the mountains, while 10 to 15 degree readings were common over the Piedmont and 20's eastward. A series of cold fronts moved across the State during the remainder of the month. Record breaking lows were reported at many locations on January 22-23. Precipitation was generally above normal for the month.

Soil moisture was mostly surplus to adequate at month's end. Pasture conditions ranged from poor to fair in the mountains, mostly fair in the Piedmont and poor to good in the Coastal Plains. Small grains were in mostly fair condition. Growth had been retarded by cold weather.

Farm work during January was limited to mostly routine chores, tobacco plant bed preparation and top dressing of small grains.

MORE CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves in North Carolina on feed for slaughter totaled 46,000 head on January 1, 1976. This represents a two percent increase from the 45,000 on full feed a year earlier.

U. S. NUMBER UP SHARPLY

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 23 major cattle feeding states totaled 12,296,000 head on January 1, 1976. This is up 28 percent from the January 1, 1975 figure, which is the lowest since January 1,

(See Cattle, Page 7)

MORE CATTLE AND HOG, LESS CHICKENS IN STATE

Recent livestock surveys showed an increase in the number of all cattle, hogs and pigs, and turkey breeder hens on N. C. farms but a decrease in all chickens and sheep and lambs.

The inventory of cattle and calves on Tar Heel farms as of January 1, 1976 is estimated at 1,130,000--a record high and an increase of 1 percent compared to the January 1, 1975 number. Beef cows increased 2 percent, from 416,000 in 1975 to 425,000 in 1976. Dairy cows, at 153,000, were up 1 percent, discontinuing the downward trend. Heifers weighing 500 pounds or more intended for beef cow replacement, at 96,000, were down 10 percent from the previous year but milk cow replacement heifers, at 43,000, remained the same as in 1975. Steers and other heifers weighing over 500 pounds, at 98,000, decreased 1 percent from a year earlier. Calves weighing less than 500 pounds totaled 279,000, up 5 percent.

The 1975 calf crop is estimated at 510,000 head, an increase of 2 percent from the 500,000 head born during 1974.

The inventory of hogs and pigs on N. C. farms on December 1, 1975 totaled 1,900,000, an increase of 1 percent from the previous December's inventory of 1,890,000. Hogs kept for breeding, at 304,000, were up 11 percent. Market hogs numbered 1,596,000, down 1 percent.

Estimated chickens on farms, excluding commercial broilers, at 18,000,000 on December 1, 1975 declined 4 percent from the 18,700,000 on hand December 1, 1974.

Turkey breeder hens on hand December 1, 1975 totaled 314,000, an increase of 49,000 or 18 percent from the 265,000 a year earlier.

(See Livestock, Page 7)

PER COW PRODUCTION HITS RECORD IN JANUARY

Milk production per cow in North Carolina totaled an estimated 890 pounds during January 1976, 20 pounds above January 1975, and a record high for the month.

Total production in January is placed at 136 million pounds, an increase of 3 percent from the 132 million pounds produced a year ago. Milk cows on farms, including dry cows, totaled 153,000 during January compared with 152,000 a year earlier.

For the U. S., January milk production is estimated at 9,545 million pounds, up 1.8 percent from a year earlier. January output exceeds the December 1975 total by 2.8 percent.

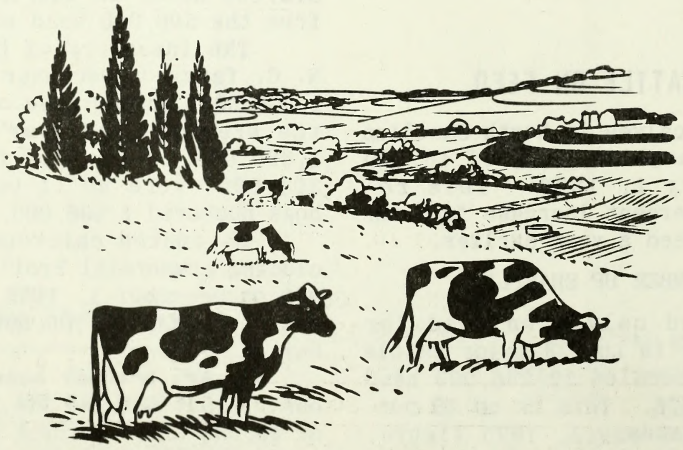
The number of milk cows on U. S. farms during January was down 1.1 percent from a year earlier. January production per cow averaged 862 pounds, 25 pounds more than in January 1975.

The January U. S. milk-feed price ratio, at 1.75, was 3 percent below the December 1975 ratio, but well above the January 1975 ratio of 1.25. The average price of milk sold to plants was 10 cents per cwt. below the previous month while the average value of grain and other concentrates fed milk cows registered a 13-cent per cwt. increase.

MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION--JANUARY

STATE	MILK COWS ON FARMS 1/			MILK PER COW 2/			MILK PRODUCTION 2/			
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1976 As Percent Of 1975
	Thousands			*Pounds*			*Million Pounds*			*Percent*
N. C.	154	152	153	820	870	890	126	132	136	103
Md.	134	138	141	910	950	900	122	131	127	97
Va.	160	159	159	830	900	890	133	143	142	99
Ga.	130	129	129	785	830	840	102	107	108	101
Fla.	205	200	196	775	830	885	159	166	173	104
U. S.	11,266	11,199	11,079	828	837	862	9,333	9,379	9,545	102

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.



STATE'S 1975 MILK OUTPUT HIGHER; RECORD RATE PER COW

Estimated milk production on N. C. farms during 1975 totaled 1,602 million pounds, an increase of 4 percent from the 1,534 million pounds produced during 1974. Milk produced per cow during the year totaled a record high 10,471 pounds, up 379 pounds from the previous year.

SMALL DECREASE IN U. S. PRODUCTION

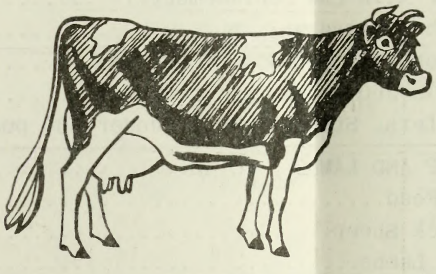
Total U. S. milk production in 1975 was 115,458 million pounds, a slight decrease from the revised estimate of 115,553 million pounds produced in 1974. Milk produced during 1975 was 9 percent below the record 1964 production of 126,967 million pounds. The annual average number of milk cows on farms was a record low 11,151,000 head, down 0.6 percent from the 1974 average. However, the number of cows on farms in December 1975 was 1.0 percent lower than those present the preceding January.

Output per cow in the Nation during 1975 averaged 10,354 pounds, 0.5 percent above 1974.

The number of operations having milk cows dropped five percent--from 469,000 in 1974 to 445,000 in 1975.

Wisconsin was the leading milk producing state in 1975 with 18.9 billion pounds, followed by California, 10.9 billion; New York, 9.9 billion; Minnesota, 8.9 billion; and Pennsylvania, 7.1 billion pounds. Together, these five states represented 48 percent of the U. S. production. The top 10 milk producing states accounted for 65 percent of the national total.

The revised estimates for 1974 and 1975 are based on an annual review of more complete production and utilization data, and results of first-of-year cattle inventory surveys.



ANNUAL MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION

STATE	MILK COWS ON FARMS 1/			MILK PER COW 2/			MILK PRODUCTION 2/			
	1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975	1975 As Percent Of 1974
	Thousands			*Pounds*			*Million Pounds*			*Percent*
N. C.	158	152	153	9,646	10,092	10,471	1,524	1,534	1,602	104
Md.	141	136	140	10,383	11,066	11,107	1,464	1,505	1,555	103
Va.	167	159	158	10,120	10,723	11,089	1,690	1,705	1,752	103
W. Va.	42	42	41	7,929	8,333	8,463	333	350	347	99
S. C.	60	57	57	8,283	9,035	8,947	497	515	510	99
Ga.	136	130	129	8,588	9,154	9,256	1,168	1,190	1,194	100
Fla.	202	201	198	9,124	9,328	9,889	1,843	1,875	1,958	104
U. S.	11,409	11,219	11,151	10,114	10,300	10,354	115,385	115,553	115,458	100

1/ Average number on farms during year, excluding heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY: NUMB

SPECIES AND CLASSIFICATION	NORTH CAROLINA					
	JANUARY 1					
	NUMBER ON FARMS				TOTAL	
	1974	1975	1976*	1976 AS % OF 1975	1974	19
	Thousand Head			*Percent*	*Thousand*	
CATTLE AND CALVES - TOTAL	1,070	1,120	1,130	101	272,850	173,
Cows and Heifers that have calved	539	568	578	102	-	
Beef Cows	384	416	425	102	-	
Milk Cows	155	152	153	101	-	
Heifers 500 pounds and over	188	188	175	93	-	
For Beef Cow replacement	102	107	96	90	-	
For Milk Cow replacement	48	43	43	100	-	
Other Heifers	38	38	36	95	-	
Steers 500 pounds and over	59	61	62	102	-	
Bulls 500 pounds and over	36	37	36	97	-	
Heifers, Steers & Bulls under 500 pounds	248	266	279	105	-	
SHEEP AND LAMBS - TOTAL	12	11	10	91	312	
On Feed	-	-	-	-	-	
Stock Sheep	12	11	10	91	312	
Ewe Lambs	1	1	1	100	-	
Wethers and Ram Lambs	1	1	1	100	-	
Ewes 1 year plus	9	8	7	88	-	
Rams and Wethers 1 year plus	1	1	1	100	-	
	DECEMBER 1					
	NUMBER ON FARMS				TOTAL V	
	1973	1974	1975*	1975 AS % OF 1974	1973	19
	Thousand Head			*Percent*	*Thousand*	
HOGS AND PIGS - TOTAL	1,950	1,890	1,900	101	114,075	83,
CHICKENS - TOTAL 1/	20,100	18,700	18,000	96	30,150	32,
Hens	6,263	5,880	5,220	89	-	
Pullets of Laying Age	7,713	7,020	6,780	97	-	
Pullets not of Laying Age	5,320	5,076	5,316	105	-	
Other Chickens	804	724	684	94	-	
TURKEY BREEDER HENS - TOTAL	275	265	314	118	2,393	2,
Heavy Breeds	-	-	-	-	-	
Light Breeds	-	-	-	-	-	

* *Preliminary.* 1/ *Does not include commercial broilers.*

R ON FARMS AND TOTAL VALUE

UNITED STATES

JANUARY 1

LUE		NUMBER ON FARMS				TOTAL VALUE		
	1976*	1974	1975	1976*	1976 AS % OF 1975	1974	1975	1976*
llars		*Thousand Head*			*Percent*	*Thousand Dollars*		
0	180,800	127,670	131,826	127,976	97	40,976,795	20,963,981	24,337,880
-	-	54,293	56,682	54,834	97	-	-	-
-	-	43,008	45,472	43,743	96	-	-	-
-	-	11,286	11,211	11,092	99	-	-	-
-	-	18,988	19,483	18,565	95	-	-	-
-	-	8,226	8,879	7,197	81	-	-	-
-	-	3,942	4,095	3,973	97	-	-	-
-	-	6,821	6,509	7,395	114	-	-	-
-	-	17,802	16,373	17,153	105	-	-	-
-	-	2,645	2,987	2,849	95	-	-	-
-	-	33,942	36,302	34,575	95	-	-	-
2	290	16,394	14,512	13,346	92	533,366	441,864	496,493
-	-	2,650	2,091	1,896	91	-	-	-
2	290	13,744	12,421	11,450	92	-	-	-
-	-	1,811	1,512	1,348	89	-	-	-
-	-	362	403	349	87	-	-	-
-	-	11,106	10,062	9,334	93	-	-	-
-	-	465	444	419	94	-	-	-

DECEMBER 1

JE		NUMBER ON FARMS				TOTAL VALUE		
	1975*	1973	1974	1975*	1975 AS % OF 1974	1973	1974	1975*
llars		*Thousand Head*			*Percent*	*Thousand Dollars*		
)	138,700	61,106	55,062	49,602	90	3,691,416	2,481,644	3,982,085
	27,900	412,503	383,579	379,192	99	669,564	654,106	659,988
	-	127,488	121,205	121,626	100	-	-	-
	-	168,974	163,824	158,129	97	-	-	-
	-	109,900	93,021	94,084	101	-	-	-
	-	6,141	5,529	5,353	97	-	-	-
	4,082	3,553	2,943	3,044	103	33,908	28,989	32,853
	-	3,133	2,580	2,602	101	-	-	-
	-	420	363	442	122	-	-	-

OUTLOOK FOR ADEQUATE MILK

The recent gain from a year earlier in U. S. milk production likely will continue and output during the first half of 1976 could be up about 1 percent according to USDA's Economic Research Service. Tight supplies of milk for manufacturing kept farm milk prices rising through late 1975 but a sharper-than-normal seasonal downturn is expected in early 1976.

The drop in cow numbers is not likely to accelerate sharply in early 1976. Low slaughter cow prices, a fairly large supply of dairy replacements on farms, and the lack of significant improvement in off-farm employment alternatives for dairymen will continue to limit the declines.

Large feed supplies have resulted in substantially lower feed prices than a year ago. Expected feed costs, averaging below year-earlier levels during the barn feeding season, and considerably higher farm milk prices likely will result in heavier grain feeding in early 1976. Milk output per cow may well continue to increase and may show more normal grains from year-earlier levels in coming months.

Farm milk prices continued rising sharply last fall, reaching $10.00 per hundred pounds in November, up more than $2 from last June. Manufacturing milk prices were more than $1 above the current support price in November.

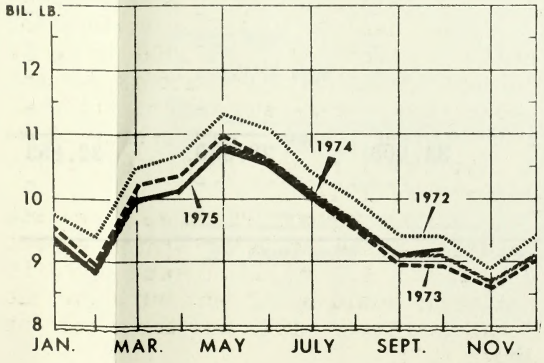
Cash receipts from dairying were up about an eighth from a year ago in August-October, due to higher farm milk prices. The 1975 total may be around $9.8 billion, up from $9.4 billion in 1974. Gross dairy income likely will remain above year-earlier levels in early 1976.

Tight supplies and relatively strong sales resulted in sharply higher wholesale prices in late 1975. By early December, butter prices were up about 35 cents per pound from last spring levels, American cheese prices were up almost 21 cents, and nonfat dry milk prices were up about 12 cents. Wholesale dairy prices likely will decline in early 1976 as supplies of milk available for manufacturing are expected to exceed this year's levels.

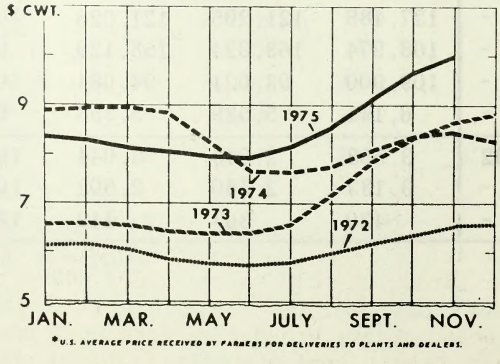
Retail dairy prices have jumped in recent months, as wholesale price increases have been reflected at retail, and are likely to continue rising through early 1976. However, because of price declines early in the year, the average rise for 1975 likely will be less than the yearly increases of the early 1970's.

U. S. dairy imports through October were well under the level of a year earlier and were also less than during the early 1970's. Most of the decline was due to smaller cheese imports. With the exception of nonfat dry milk donated under the Food for Peace program this summer, exports of dairy products remained small and were slightly below year-earlier levels during January-October.

U.S. MILK PRODUCTION BY MONTHS



MILK PRICES*



*U.S. AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS FOR DELIVERIES TO PLANTS AND DEALERS.

LIVESTOCK *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

Sheep and lambs in the state on January 1, 1976 totaled 10,000, down 9 percent from January 1, 1975.

N. C. VALUES RISE

The total value of the recent inventory of all cattle, hogs, sheep and lambs, chickens and turkey breeder hens on Tar Heel farms amounted to about 352 million dollars or an increase of 21 percent from a year earlier. All hogs, valued at $139 million, were 67 percent higher than the previous year. All cattle were valued at $181 million compared with $174 million on January 1, 1975. Sheep and lambs decreased in value from $292 to $290 thousand. The value of turkey breeder hens increased from $2.3 to $4.1 million. All chickens were valued at $28 million, a decrease of 15 percent.

U. S. CATTLE AND HOGS DOWN

The January 1, 1976 inventory of 127,976,000 cattle and calves on the Nations farms and ranches was 3 percent lower than the 131,826,000 on hand January 1, 1975. The value of the inventory on January 1, 1976 was $24.3 billion, up $3.3 billion from a year earlier.

The number of all hogs and pigs on farms in the U. S. on December 1, 1975 is estimated at 49,602,000--10 percent less than a year earlier. Hogs and pigs kept for breeding are estimated at 7,634,000, up 3 percent from December 1, 1974. Market hogs and pigs numbered 41,968,000, down 12 percent.

The inventory value of all hogs and pigs totaled $4.0 billion, an increase of 60 percent from December 1, 1974. The value per head averaged $80.30, up $35.20.

The January 1, 1976 number of all sheep and lambs on the Nation's farms, at 13,346,000, declined 8 percent during 1975. All sheep and lambs were valued at $496 million, $54 million more than the January 1975 worth.

Turkey breeder hens on U. S. farms on December 1, 1975 (26 states) totaled 3,044,000, up 3 percent from a year earlier but down 14 percent from December 1973. Of this total, 2,602,000 were heavy breeder and 442,000 were light breeds. Heavy breed hens were up 1 percent from December 1974; light breeds were up 22 percent.

The December 1, 1975 value of breeder hens on farms totaled $32.9 million compared with $29.0 million on December 1, 1974. The average value per bird of $10.79 on December 1, 1975, compares with $9.85 on December 1, 1974.

The number of chickens on U. S. farms on December 1, 1975 (excluding commercial broilers) totaled 379 million--down 1 percent from the revised December 1, 1974 total of 384 million. Hens and pullets of laying age totaled 280 million--down 2 percent from the December 1, 1974, total of 285 million.

The value of chickens (excluding commercial broilers) on farms December 1, 1975 was $660 million compared with $654 million a year earlier. The value per head was $1.74, compared with $1.70.

(See Table, pages 4 and 5, for more detail.)

CATTLE *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

1965. The January 1, 1976 figure is up 32 percent from October 1, 1975, but 6 percent below January 1, 1974.

Placements of cattle and calves in the 23 states during the October-December quarter of 1975 totaled 8.3 million head, up 27 percent from this period in 1974 and up 11 percent from the 1973 period.

Marketings of feed cattle for slaughter during the October-December quarter of 1975 totaled 4.9 million head, down 11 percent from the same quarter a year ago and down 24 percent from the 1973 period.

There were 8,256,000 steers and steer calves on feed January 1, 1976 in the 23 major feeding states, 20 percent above a year earlier but 13 percent less than January 1, 1974. Heifers and heifer calves, at 3,963,000, were 50 percent above last year and 13 percent above 1974. Cows and other cattle on feed totaled 77,000, eight percent above a year earlier, but 10 percent below January 1, 1974.

During January-March 1976, cattle feeders in the 23 major states expect to market 6.2 million head and, if realized, would be 12 percent above the first quarter of 1975 and three percent above 1974.

WORLD AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT RISES

World agricultural production (excluding communist Asia) made a modest increase in 1975 but rose a little less rapidly than the 2-percent average annual growth in world population. Indications also point to a good agricultural year for the People's Republic of China.

Total agricultural output fell at least 1 percent in the developed countries. The substantial recovery of U. S. and Canadian production was not enough to offset a sharp drop in the Soviet Union and more modest setbacks in Western and Eastern Europe.

The developing countries achieved a sharp 5-percent increase in total agricultural production in 1975. More important, the index of per capita output climbed to a new high of 104 after three years in a row when per capita output held at a level equal to the 1961-65 average of 100.

Among the developing countries, those in Asia showed the strongest increases in total agricultural production. The sharp increases in agricultural production in South Asia were especially welcome because of the poor crops a year earlier in India and Bangladesh. Gains were much more modest in Latin America. Africa's agricultural output increased much slower than its population.

The continued growth in grain consumption will probably require a further small drawdown in world grain stocks, so that ending 1975-76 stocks will probably remain at minimum working levels. Stocks--particularly for coarse grains and rice--are likely to become more concentrated in the United States. Stocks have grown in the United States while declining elsewhere.

Oilseeds continue in plentiful supply relative to demand primarily because of the large increase in the 1975 U. S. and Brazilian soybean crops. Thus, oilmeal and vegetable oil production will be up strongly in 1976. Meal consumption will probably not increase as rapidly, so that a further buildup in oilseed stocks through 1975-76 seems in prospect.

Meat production is soaring in the major meat exporting countries of the southern hemisphere because of the pressure of large herds, but producers there face considerable uncertainty because the major consuming countries are expected to hold imports to the depressed 1974 level. Feed shortages have led to some distress slaughter of hogs and poultry in the Soviet Union.

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Farm Report
COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

No. 700 | Raleigh, N. C. | March 8, 1976

STATE'S FARM INCOME SETS RECORD

Cash receipts from marketings of North Carolina farm products during calendar 1975 amounted to about $2,704 million, a record high and 2.7 percent more than receipts during 1974.

Cash income from livestock and livestock products reached an all-time high of $997 million, up 8.4 percent. Receipts from crops, at $1,707 million, were slightly below the record $1,712 million received in 1974.

As usual, tobacco lead all individual commodities in income for the year. Income from the crop, at $951 million, was a record high. It comprised 56 percent of the income from all crops sold and 35 percent of the income from all commodities.

Cash receipts from corn, at $227 million, and from soybeans, at $177 million, were about one-fifth below the record-highs of 1974. Peanuts returned grower a near-record $74 million. Combined income from vegetables, at $100 million, and from fruits and nuts, at $37 million, was at the highest level ever.

Among livestock products, four major categories set new highs for income: broilers, $295 million; hogs, $228 million; milk, $149 million; and turkeys, $89 million. Cash receipts from cattle and calves, at $58 million, and chicken eggs, at $147 million, were down 13 and 7 percent, respectively, from the previous year and well below record highs.

For the United States, cash receipts from farm marketings in 1975 were an estimated $90.6 billion, a 3.2 percent drop. Livestock receipts, at $43.2 billion, were up about 4.4 percent but crop receipts, at $47.3 billion, were down 9.2 percent.

(See Table, Page 3)

NORTH CAROLINA PRICES RECEIVED INDEX RISES

The ''All Farm Products'' index of prices received by Tar Heel farmers at local markets during February 1976 is 173 (1967 = 100), up 2 points from January. Increases in the price of several important crop and livestock items caused the rise. The index for February 1975 is 174.

The ''All Crops'' index of prices

(See Index, Page 3)

FARM LABOR FORCE SLIGHTLY LARGER

North Carolina's farm labor force is estimated at 94,000 for the survey week of January 11-17, 1976 -- up 1,000 workers from the comparable period in 1975. Farm operator plus other unpaid family workers totaled 75,000 compared to 73,000 a year earlier. Hired workers numbered 19,000, down 1,000.

The survey, conducted quarterly, indicates that farm operators worked an average of 19.0 hours on farms during the January survey week versus 31.9 hours for other unpaid family workers and 27.7 hours for hired workers. Hired workers received an average wage of $2.37 an hour compared to $2.24 a year earlier.

For all of 1975, the State's total farm labor force averaged 169,000 -- 108,000 family workers and 61,000 hired. In 1974, total workers averaged 182,000, comprising 117,000 family and 65,000 hired. Wages averaged $2.03 during 1975 compared to $1.87 in 1974.

The total U. S. farm labor forces averaged 4,357,100 in 1975, down slightly from 4,388,900 the previous year. U. S. farm wages averaged $2.43 in 1975; $2.25 in 1974.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER UP IN JANUARY

Commercial slaughter of livestock in North Carolina during January totaled 55,495,000 pounds live weight, 10 percent over January 1975. The number of head slaughtered was 172,100, up slightly from a year earlier. Cattle slaughter increased 37 percent to 31,177,000 pounds live weight. Veal production, at 120,000 pounds live weight, was up 48 percent. Hog slaughter was down 2 percent to 34,188,000 pounds live weight.

Commercial production of red meat in the United States totaled 3.3 billion pounds in January, 1 percent less than January 1975, but virtually the same as January 1974. Commercial meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER 1/

SPECIES	JANUARY							
	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES			
	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thous. Head		*Thous. Lbs.*		*Million Head*		*Million Lbs.*	
Cattle	18.0	23.4	15,480	21,177	3.5	3.8	3,582	3,786
Calves	.3	.6	81	120	.4	.5	103	131
Sheep & Lambs	-	.1	-	10	.7	.6	72	66
Hogs	153.0	148.0	35,037	34,188	6.8	5.7	1,630	1,385
TOTAL	171.3	172.1	50,598	55,495	11.4	10.6	5,387	5,368

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

BETTER BALANCE INDICATED FOR CATTLE AND HOGS

The January 1, 1976 cattle inventory report provided U. S. cattlemen with a glimpse of that proverbial light at the end of the tunnel as the eighth cattle cycle in the past 100 years approaches its final stages. After increasing an average of almost 3 million head per year since 1967, the count of all cattle and calves on farms at the beginning of this year was 128 million, down 4 million head from a year earlier. The extremely heavy rate of cow slaughter during 1975 was enough to reduce the beef cow inventory below year-earlier levels for the first time since 1958.

While most cattle feeders were operating in the black for much of the last three quarters of 1975, returns to cow-calf operators were generally poor. But the reduced inventory and the recent pickup in cattle feeding are bringing the feeder cattle supply more in line with feedlot demand for replacement cattle, and should improve returns to cow-calf operators later in 1976 and in 1977. Also, the reduced inventory of cattle outside feedlots may begin to moderate the slaughter of nonfed cattle and calves at a time when significant increases in fed beef production are imminent.

Although the U. S. cattle industry is now taking the first steps back toward a more normal balance between fed and nonfed slaughter levels and prices, the recovery period isn't likely to be free of problems for cattlemen. While reduced, the total inventory is still second only to last year and is well above long-term trends. The 1976 calf crop may be reduced from 1975 but will still be large in comparison with other recent years. Profit margins for cattle feeders are being

(See Cattle, Page 4)

CASH INCOME FROM FARM MARKETINGS -- NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES

ITEM	1971	1972	1973	1974*	1975*
	Thousand Dollars				
NORTH CAROLINA					
All Commodities.....	1,484,470	1,640,227	2,334,056	2,632,351	2,703,766
All Crops.....	900,869	996,870	1,361,085	1,712,233	1,706,672
Tobacco, All Types.	561,647	585,801	719,160	837,429	950,638
Corn.....	72,044	86,093	157,435	296,106	227,432
Soybeans.....	56,487	92,774	171,209	218,278	176,590
Peanuts.....	45,061	50,933	74,654	69,537	74,253
Cotton, Lint & Seed	17,786	18,673	39,268	42,522	16,733
Vegetables.....	51,507	60,141	78,628	82,297	100,372
Fruits and Nuts....	19,354	22,214	23,164	29,777	36,700
Other Crops 1/.....	76,983	80,241	97,567	136,287	123,954
All Livestock.....	583,601	643,357	972,971	920,118	997,094
Hogs.....	113,592	146,884	203,961	205,092	228,198
Cattle and Calves..	57,266	65,760	91,100	66,840	58,079
Milk.....	98,713	102,298	118,923	140,460	148,813
Broilers.....	147,862	164,926	281,500	247,621	295,183
Chicken Eggs.....	107,566	97,674	162,602	158,556	147,333
Turkeys.....	40,570	44,212	86,201	74,367	88,562
Other Livestock....	18,032	21,603	28,684	27,182	30,926
UNITED STATES	*Million Dollars*				
All Commodities 2/....	52,860	61,190	86,875	93,521	90,572
All Crops.....	22,276	25,520	41,050	52,097	47,327
All Livestock.....	30,583	35,670	45,824	41,424	43,246

** Preliminary. 1/ Includes farm forest products, nursery, seeds, and other field crops. 2/ Totals may not add due to rounding.*

INDEX *(Cont'd From Page 1)*

received rose 1 point. Contributing most were fruits up 5 points, grains up 4 points, and cotton up 4 points.

The ''Livestock and Livestock Products'' index is 2 points over January. Both the meat animals index and poultry index increased 3 points. The dairy index is down 1 point.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARM PRICES INDEX NUMBERS

INDEX (1967 = 100)	Feb. 15 1973	Feb. 15 1974	Feb. 15 1975	Jan. 15 1976	Feb. 15 1976
NORTH CAROLINA					
Prices Received: All Farm Products...	3/ 139	3/ 169	3/ 174	171	173
All Crops.....	3/ 134	3/ 157	3/ 174	162	163
Tobacco.....	130	134	3/ 161	152	152
Cotton.....	3/ 121	3/ 278	3/ 143	221	225
Oil Bearing.....	171	203	201	171	173
Grains.....	120	227	220	189	193
Commercial Vegetables.....	129	3/ 186	186	181	181
Fruits.....	3/ 122	130	187	192	197
Livestock and Livestock Products	3/ 148	189	3/ 173	189	191
Meat Animals.....	176	3/ 210	170	210	213
Poultry.....	3/ 141	188	177	184	187
Dairy.....	3/ 126	3/ 161	3/ 164	3/ 170	169
UNITED STATES					
Prices Received, All Farm Products....	3/ 150	202	3/ 168	186	187
Prices Paid, Commodities & Services 1/	3/ 139	3/ 165	3/ 180	3/ 193	193
Parity Ratio 2/.....	110	3/ 125	93	3/ 96	97

1/ Including Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid. 3/ Revised.

CATTLE (Cont'd. From Page 2)

squeezed this winter as fed steer prices move lower under pressure of record beef production.

Pork supplies in the nation will continue restricted through midyear. With 1975's fall pig crop down 8 percent from 1974's first half commercial hog slaughter likely will be below a year earlier by a similar percentage. The distribution of market hogs on farms by weight groups suggests that hog slaughter during the first quarter of this year may be down 10-12 percent, followed by a 3-5 percent reduction in April-June slaughter. Average slaughter weights may be somewhat heavier than in 1975, thus moderating declines in pork production. Even so, first half 1976 pork production may fall 6-8 percent below 1975's reduced first half level.

Market hog prices have run mostly between $48-$51 per 100 pounds since last November, down almost $15 from mid-October peaks but still $10 above a year earlier. While hog prices are down, feed costs have also moved lower and profit margins for pork producers continue favorable. If hog slaughter rates slip somewhat below early January levels in the next few weeks, hog prices may strengthen some, but larger fed beef and broiler output may limit price rises. Barrows and gilts at seven markets during January-March will be below earlier expectations, and perhaps will average near $50 per 100 pounds. Expected increases in hog slaughter from winter to spring may push slaughter hog prices down into the mid-to-upper $40 range during April-June.

Pork supplies will grow somewhat as the year progresses, with expected increases in second half pork production more than offsetting a first half decline. For the year, however, only a small net increase in production is in prospect.

CROP PRICES UP

The average prices North Carolina farmers received at local markets about mid-February were mostly unchanged or higher. (See Table, Page 5.) Corn was up 4 cents to average $2.60 per bushel and soybeans were up 10 cents per bushel to $4.53. Hogs and milk cows were unchanged from the previous month, while beef cattle were up $2.00 and veal calves up $3.10 per hundredweight.

Prices paid for mixed dairy feed were down from February. (See Table, Page 5.) Sixteen percent protein feed decreased the most with a drop of $2.00 per ton. Poultry feed price changes varied. Chick starter was down $4.00 per ton and turkey grower was up $1.00. Grain by-products were mostly unchanged. High protein feeds increased 10 cents per hundredweight.

COMPARISON OF PRICES RECEIVED BY U. S. FARMERS AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY PRICES 1/		AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	Jan. 15 1976	Feb. 15 1976	Jan. 15 1976	Feb. 15 1976	Jan. 15 1976	Feb. 15 1976
	Dollars				*Percent*	
Cotton, Lb.	.499	.498	.7771	.7866	64	63
Wheat, Bu.	3.43	3.66	4.80	4.86	71	75
Corn, Bu.	2.44	2.48	3.22	3.26	76	76
Oats, Bu.	1.44	1.46	1.57	1.59	92	92
Barley, Bu.	2.31	2.31	2.76	2.80	84	83
Rye, Bu.	2.33	2.26	2.49	2.53	94	89
Beef Cattle, Cwt.	33.50	34.20	56.20	56.80	60	60
Hogs, Cwt.	47.50	47.90	51.60	52.20	92	92
Lambs, Cwt.	47.70	46.80	57.30	58.00	83	81
Eggs, Doz.	.622	.598	.771	.780	5/ 71	5/ 75
Milk, Whlse., Cwt. 2/	3/ 10.20	4/ 10.00	11.90	12.00	5/ 82	5/ 80

1/ Parity prices as computed currently using base prices in effect and indexes for months indicated. 2/ Estimated average price for the month for all milk sold at wholesale to plants and dealers. 3/ Revised. 4/ Preliminary. 5/ Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices.

COMMODITY PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		Feb. 15 1975	Jan. 15 1976	Feb. 15 1976*	Feb. 15 1975	Jan. 15 1976	Feb. 15 1976*
		Dollars					
Tobacco	Lb.	-	1.035	-	.895	1.067	1.071
Corn	Bu.	3.00	2.56	2.60	2.86	2.44	2.48
Wheat	Bu.	3.33	2.96	3.10	3.95	3.43	3.66
Oats	Bu.	1.63	1.52	1.53	1.58	1.44	1.46
Barley	Bu.	2.25	1.92	1.98	2.89	2.31	2.31
Rye	Bu.	3.00	2.16	-	2.41	2.33	2.26
Sorghum Grains	Cwt.	4.94	4.13	4.23	4.21	4.06	4.09
Soybeans	Bu.	5.82	4.43	4.53	5.72	4.46	4.50
Peanuts	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cotton	Lb.	.350	.540	.550	.320	.499	.498
Cottonseed	Ton	-	77.00	-	124.00	89.90	90.50
Wool	Lb.	-	-	-	.353	.484	.531
Hogs	Cwt.	38.10	48.40	48.40	38.40	47.50	47.90
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	21.90	24.20	26.20	26.90	33.50	34.20
Veal Calves	Cwt.	28.70	31.80	34.90	24.30	31.40	34.40
Milk Cows	Hd.	310.00	320.00	320.00	390.00	458.00	465.00
Com'l. Broilers	Lb.	.245	.240	.250	.246	.243	.252
Turkeys	Lb.	.330	.360	.350	.308	.336	.321
Eggs 1/	Doz.	.632	.707	.691	.543	.622	.598
Milk, Whlse	Cwt.	10.50	10.90	10.80	8.28	10.20	10.00
Potatoes	Cwt.	-	-	-	3.17	4.52	4.80
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt.	9.10	9.30	9.30	9.55	9.57	9.98
Apples, Com'l.	Lb.	.107	.086	.091	.099	.085	.083
Lespedeza Seed	Cwt.	44.60	42.80	43.00	42.20	35.30	33.40
Hay, All	Ton	54.50	54.00	53.50	49.30	52.70	54.30
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	58.50	57.00	56.00	52.50	56.20	58.60
Other	Ton	54.50	54.00	53.50	44.20	46.40	46.70

*1/ Average of all eggs sold by farmers including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail by farmers. * Preliminary.*

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

TYPE OF FEED	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	Feb. 15 1975	Jan. 15 1976	Feb. 15 1976	Feb. 15 1975	Jan. 15 1976	Feb. 15 1976
	Per Ton - Dollars					
Mixed Dairy Feed						
14% Protein	136.00	136.00	135.00	137.00	132.00	133.00
16% Protein	136.00	138.00	136.00	137.00	136.00	136.00
32% Protein	168.00	165.00	164.00	176.00	175.00	177.00
Poultry Feeds						
Chick Starter	170.00	166.00	162.00	171.00	161.00	162.00
Broiler Grower	180.00	174.00	175.00	167.00	158.00	160.00
Laying Feed 1/	155.00	147.00	146.00	151.00	143.00	143.00
Turkey Grower 1/	168.00	166.00	167.00	168.00	165.00	165.00
	Per 100 Lbs. - Dollars					
Grain By-Products						
Bran	8.10	7.50	7.40	7.60	7.36	7.37
Middlings	8.00	7.40	7.40	7.39	7.25	7.26
Corn Meal	7.60	6.90	6.90	7.44	6.55	6.52
High Protein Feeds						
Cottonseed Meal 41%	9.80	9.50	9.60	9.21	9.47	9.42
Soybean Meal 44%	10.00	9.40	9.50	9.10	8.81	8.84

1/ Complete ration feeds which are fed without further mixing or supplementations.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION HIGHER

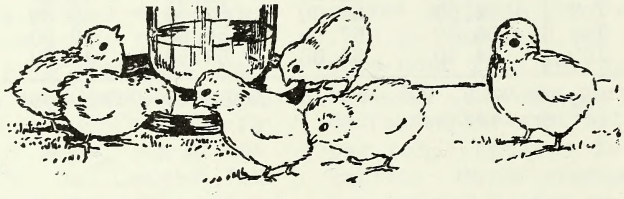
Commercial hatcheries in North Carolina produced 27,176,000 chicks during January 1976, up 5 percent from January 1975.

For the United States, the January hatch, at 313,784,000, was up 9 percent. The number of eggs in incubators on February 1, 1976 throughout the Nation was up 8 percent; for the South Atlantic States, it was up 7 percent.

CHICKS HATCHED -- JANUARY

STATE	BROILER-TYPE		EGG-TYPE		ALL TYPES	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands					
NORTH CAROLINA	25,364	26,881	481	295	25,845	27,176
South Carolina	1,815	1,974	842	886	2,657	2,860
Georgia	36,516	38,889	2,905	3,674	39,421	42,563
Florida	6,322	7,045	3,542	2,916	9,864	9,961
Delaware	11,795	13,615	1/	1/	11,795	13,615
Maryland	17,148	18,809	1/	1/	17,148	18,809
Virginia	7,217	7,635	527	623	7,744	8,258
UNITED STATES	252,565	278,129	34,973	35,655	287,538	313,784

1/ Not published separately, to avoid disclosing individual operations.



POULT HATCH INCREASES

The U. S. commercial hatch of turkey poults during January 1976, at 10.5 million, was 21 percent above a year ago. The hatch of heavy breeds was up 16 percent from the same month last year to 8.7 million poults and light breed poults hatched were up 46 percent to 1.8 million.

The number of turkey eggs in incubators on February 1, at 18.7 million, was 8 percent above last year. Eggs for heavy breed turkeys were up 9 percent from last year and light breeds were up 2 percent.

POULTS HATCHED -- JANUARY

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION (U.S.)	HEAVY BREEDS 1/		LIGHT BREEDS 2/		ALL BREEDS	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands					
North Atlantic	149	178	7	7	156	185
East North Central	811	989	71	99	882	1,088
West North Central	1,909	2,415	606	958	2,515	3,373
South Atlantic	1,650	1,788	351	537	2,001	2,325
South Central	1,141	1,384	107	-	1,248	1,384
West	1,830	1,965	84	193	1,914	2,158
UNITED STATES	7,490	8,719	1,226	1,794	8,716	10,513

1/ Birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is 12 pounds or over.
2/ Birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is less than 12 pounds.

JANUARY EGG PRODUCTION DOWN

Egg production in North Carolina during January 1976 is estimated at 232 million, down 10 percent from January 1975. The number of layers on hand during January was 11,800,000 compared to 13,200,000 a year earlier. Eggs laid per 100 layers, at 1969, is slightly above January 1975.

The Nation's laying flock produced 5.5 billion eggs during January, 1 percent less than in January 1975. Layers on farms during January totaled 280 million, down 2 percent from a year earlier. The average rate of lay during the month was up 1 percent from a year earlier.

NUMBER OF LAYERS AND EGG PRODUCTION -- JANUARY

STATE	LAYERS ON HAND		EGGS PER 100 LAYERS		TOTAL EGGS PRODUCED	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands		*Number*		*Millions*	
NORTH CAROLINA	13,200	11,800	1,956	1,969	258	232
Virginia	3,196	3,389	2,012	1,996	64	68
South Carolina	5,525	5,945	2,043	1,947	113	116
Georgia	23,975	23,486	1,972	2,021	473	475
Florida	11,983	12,075	2,003	1,962	240	237
UNITED STATES	284,745	279,844	1,953	1,970	5,560	5,514

AVERAGE NUMBER LAYERS ON FARMS, EGGS PER 100 LAYERS AND EGGS PRODUCED, BY MONTHS, 1974 AND 1975, NORTH CAROLINA

MONTH	NUMBER LAYERS		EGGS PER 100 LAYERS		EGGS PRODUCED	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
	1,000 Head		*Number*		*Million Eggs*	
December 3/	13,906	13,000	1,962	1,965	273	255
January	13,709	13,200	1,969	1,956	270	258
February	13,530	12,650	1,806	1,772	244	224
March	13,277	12,200	2,015	2,009	268	245
April	12,827	11,650	1,896	1,965	243	229
May	12,735	11,050	1,959	2,012	249	222
June	12,820	11,250	1,950	1,941	250	218
July	12,675	11,375	2,012	2,018	255	230
August	12,600	11,450	1,987	1,990	250	228
September	12,575	11,725	1,914	1,908	241	224
October	12,650	11,950	1,978	1,990	250	238
November	12,825	11,950	1,902	1,932	244	231
TOTAL	1/ 13,011	1/ 11,954	2/ 233	2/ 234	3,037	2,802

1/ Monthly average. 2/ Eggs produced during year divided by average number layers during year. 3/ December preceding year.

MORE POULTRY MEAT WITH PRICES NEAR A YEAR AGO

Look for substantially larger broiler and turkey meat output and for little change in egg production this winter and spring from a year ago according to USDA's Outlook and Situation Board. While prices during the first half of 1976 will be down from October-December 1975, egg prices likely will average above a year earlier, while broiler and turkey prices may be near January-June 1975 levels.

Egg production in the U. S. during 1975 continued the downward trend of recent years, slipping a little over 2 percent from 1974 and 8 percent below the record large 1971 production. Layer numbers in 1975 were down a little over 3 percent but the rate of lay was up from the previous year.

January 1 layer numbers were 2 percent below January 1, 1975. Replacement pullets entering the laying flock may increase about 4 percent during January-March but then fall 6 percent in April-June. However, the size of the laying flock in coming months will be influenced significantly by producers' decisions regarding the force molting of their old layers.

Broiler producers responded to easing feed prices and stronger broiler prices in 1975 by increasing production. Broiler production was down sharply in early 1975, but gained and exceeded 1974 by 11 percent last fall. Broiler chick placements and eggs set for 1976 marketings through April are up around 9 percent from a year earlier. First half 1976 output is expected to be up a tenth from 1975. Prospects for favorable profit margins in coming months will result in broiler producers continuing to place more chicks than a year earlier. Marketings will continue to gain next summer, but the increase over 1975 likely will narrow.

Turkey meat output in 1975 was down 7 percent from 1974, even though output during the last quarter of 1975 was up 7 percent. Turkey growers in late 1975 indicated plans to raise 6 percent more turkeys this year than in 1975. While producers may alter their plans somewhat, in the past these early intentions have been a good indicator of turkey production. The seasonally light first half 1976 output likely will be 15-20 percent above January-June 1975. However, turkey meat supplies through midyear may be about the same as a year ago. Increased output will be about offset by an 80-million-pound reduction in cold storage stocks on January 1. Output will increase seasonally in the second half of 1976, but the relative increase over 1975 will narrow sharply.

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FEBRUARY WARM AND DRY

Temperatures during February averaged above normal across the Tar Heel State. The month began with near average readings but above normal, record breaking temperatures were recorded near mid-month and again at month's end. Precipitation was light with the heaviest amounts occurring the first week of February. At month's end, soil moisture was rated at 70 percent adequate and 30 percent short.

Fieldwork during the month consisted mainly of top dressing small grains and land preparation for spring planting. Irish potato planting and cabbage transplanting were active in many eastern counties during the later part of February. Fruit growers continued tree pruning in the Mountain Region. Many agricultural activities are ahead of normal progress as a result of the recent mild weather.

Small grains were in mostly good condition at the end of February but the lack of significant precipitation had begun to retard growth in some areas.

Tobacco plants have progressed rapidly and transplanting is expected to begin earlier than normal. Pastures were in mostly fair condition in early March after showing some improvement in recent weeks.

SPRING POTATO ACREAGE LARGER

North Carolina farmers can expect to harvest 13,000 acres of spring potatoes in 1976, third highest in the U. S. This is up 8 percent from the 12,000 acres harvested in 1975 but is the same as that harvested in 1974. As of March 8, nearly half the intended spring potato acreage, grown in the

(See Potatoes, Page 2)

HIGHER LEAF TOBACCO STOCKS

Stocks of leaf tobacco in the United States and in Puerto Rico totaled 4.7 billion pounds (farm-sales-weight) as of January 1. The total, based on quarterly reports of dealers and manufacturers, was 280 million pounds larger than a year ago.

Domestic flue-cured and burley stocks were above the January 1, 1975 totals by 226 million and 32 million pounds, respectively, while the combined inventory of foreign grown flue-cured and burley tobaccos rose 36 million pounds to a record high of 207 million pounds. Foreign cigar leaf tobacco stocks showed a gain of 6 million pounds.

Stocks of leaf tobacco under government loan as of January 1 totaled about 402.5 million pounds, a gain of 118.7 million pounds from a year ago, reflecting larger deliveries of the 1975 flue-cured and burley crops. These loan stocks were divided as follows: flue-cured, 357.8 million pounds; burley, 41.7 million; fire-cured, .4 million; dark air-cured, .01 million; and cigar leaf, 2.6 million.

PER COW MILK OUTPUT CONTINUES AT RECORD LEVEL

Tar Heel milk cows produced an estimated 870 pounds per cow during February. This is a tenth greater than produced in February 1975 and the highest ever for the month. For the entire year of 1975, output per cow averaged an all-time high of 10,471 pounds.

Total production in February is placed at 133 million pounds, an in-

(See Milk, Page 2)

MILK *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

crease of 10 percent from a year earlier. Estimated milk cows on farms, including dry cows, totaled 153,000 during February, the same as in 1974 and 1975.

U. S. PRODUCTION RISES

For the Nation, milk production in February of 9,248 million pounds is 5 percent above a year earlier and 6 percent above February 1974. The number of milk cows on farms during February totaled 11.1 million head, off 1 percent from a year earlier and 2 percent below February 1974. February production per cow averaged 835 pounds, 51 pounds above February 1975, and 57 pounds above February 1974.

The February U.S. milk-feed price ratio, at 1.70, was 3 percent below the January ratio, but well above the February 1975 ratio of 1.33. The average price of milk sold to plants was 20 cents per cwt. below the previous month while the average value of grain and other concentrates fed milk cows registered a 5 cent per cwt. increase.

MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION--FEBRUARY

STATE	MILK COWS ON FARMS 1/			MILK PER COW 2/			MILK PRODUCTION 2/			
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1976 As Percent Of 1975
	Thousands			*Pounds*			*Million Pounds*			*Percent*
N. C.	153	153	153	760	790	870	116	121	133	110
Md.	134	139	141	840	870	860	113	121	121	100
Va.	159	159	159	765	810	830	122	129	132	102
Ga.	130	129	128	730	765	800	95	99	102	103
Fla.	203	199	197	750	780	825	152	155	163	105
U. S.	11,249	11,195	11,072	778	784	835	8,755	8,781	9,248	105

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

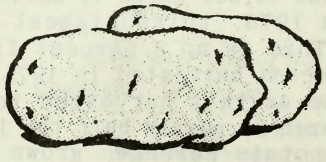
2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

POTATOES *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

Coastal Plains, had been planted.

U. S. ACREAGE UP

Producers of spring potatoes in the U.S. are expected to harvest 97.6 thousand acres, up 16 percent from the 84.5 thousand acres harvested in 1975, but 6 percent less than in 1974. Planting in Alabama is nearly complete. California planting will continue until about March 15. Early fields are in good condition. Early plantings in Florida are in good condition with planting nearly complete in the Hastings area. Planting in north and west Florida should be complete by mid-March. Planting in North Carolina was approximately one-fourth complete by March 1. Most of the planting in Texas was complete by the end of February. A light frost in the lower Rio Grande Valley in late February caused some light damage, but no acreage is expected to be abandoned.



RECORD LARGE SOYBEAN SUPPLIES

With lower soybean prices and some pickup in economic activity, the demand for U. S. soybeans is strengthening both here and abroad. U. S. use during September-December 1975 was up a fifth from the previous year's depressed levels, as both crush and exports gained. Nevertheless, soybean supplies are record large, and a sharp buildup in carryout stocks is anticipated.

Prices received by farmers for soybeans dropped about $1 per bushel during September-December to $4.28 in December. Prices over the balance of the year probably will fluctuate within a relatively narrow range, averaging below the $5.37 received during February-August 1975. The outlook for 1976 U. S. soybean production, developments affecting demand, and the size of the 1976 Brazilian soybean crop to be harvested during April-May all lend uncertainty about the course of U. S. soybean prices the rest of the year.

Early January planting intentions indicate about 51 million acres of soybeans will be planted this spring, 3.6 million or 7 percent less than in 1975. Plantings are expected to be down in the Corn Belt where soybean/corn price relationships favor corn. However, cuts are also being made in the Delta and Southeast where prospective cotton acreage is up sharply. Even with the anticipated cutback in acreage, soybean supplies in 1976-77 will be adequate, assuming normal 1976 yields, because of the large carryover in sight next fall.

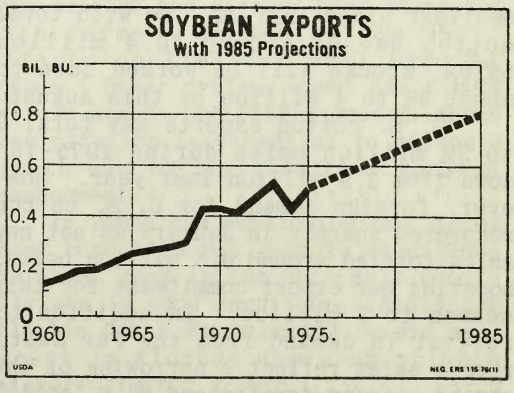
Soybean supplies for the current marketing year total 1.7 billion bushels, a fourth more than in 1974-75. This consists of the 1975 soybean crop of 1,521 million bushels and carryin stocks last September 1 of 185 million. Acreage harvested was up slightly, but yields per acre were record high--28.4 bushels, or 5.2 above the drought-reduced 1974 harvest.

With record supplies and somewhat lower prices, soybean use this marketing year is expected to total around 1.4 billion bushels compared with 1.2 billion in 1974-75. The rates of economic recovery and expansion in the livestock and poultry industries are contributing to expanded soybean utilization. Also, U. S. soybeans are facing tough foreign competition.

The soybean crush in 1975-76 is forecast at around 800 million bushels, up some 100 million from last season. Through December the crush totaled 277 million bushels, 17 percent ahead of September-December 1974. There has been a sharp recovery in the domestic use of soybean oil and meal, but exports are lagging year ago rates. Soybean exports this season are estimated at around 500 million bushels, compared with 421 million shipped in 1974-75. Inspections for export through late January were running a fourth ahead of last year's rate. Most of the increase is to West European countries where livestock and poultry feeding has picked up in response to relatively low meal prices compared with those of feed grains.

Soybean oil supplies are now estimated at around 9.2 billion pounds, up a billion from 1974-75. Domestic disappearance so far is up 12 percent and for the entire marketing year may reach 7.2 billion pounds compared with 6.6 billion last year.

Soybean meal output for 1975-76 may reach 19 million short tons, more than 2 million above last year. Domestic use is expected to exceed 14 million tons, up nearly 2 million, as livestock feeding picks up in response to more favorable feeding ratios. Exports may increase some from the 4.3 million ton level of 1974-75.



COTTON OUTLOOK FAVORABLE

The current season's rise in U. S. cotton prices--which has tempered recovery in domestic mill consumption and, until recently, helped undermine export sales--is serving as an incentive for larger cotton production in 1976. Larger output is necessary for a return to a more balanced supply-demand position.

With cotton prices higher in relation to competing crops, particularly soybeans in the Delta, farmers are planning to plant substantially more cotton this spring. In January, growers indicated intentions to plant 11.2 million acres of upland cotton. If realized, this would be 1.6 million acres more than in 1975, although still almost 2½ million shy of 1974 plantings. Intended cotton acreage is up in all regions, with the biggest rebound in the Delta.

U. S. cotton disappearance prospects generally look good for 1976-77, assuming supplies are adequate and prices competitive with manmade fibers and foreign-produced cotton. The recovery in the U. S. economy is expected to continue in 1976, boosting demand for textile goods. However, increasing competition from cotton textile imports is hurting U. S. mill use prospects. As foreign cotton consumption picks up in 1976, U. S. raw cotton exports will benefit and total considerably above the current season's level.

The 1975-76 cotton situation is highlighted by a sharp drawdown in stocks as disappearance is exceeding the small 1975 crop by about 2 million bales. Production totaled 8.3 million bales this season and together with beginning stocks is contributing to a total supply of 14.1 million, the smallest since 1923-24. So with total cotton use of around 10.4 million bales, stocks will be worked down to about 3½ to 4 million by this August.

U. S. cotton exports may total 3 to 3½ million bales during 1975-76, down from 3.9 million last year. However, foreign demand for U. S. cotton recovered sharply in January as net new sales totaled around 0.5 million bales, boosting our export commitment for this season to 3 million. In addition to revival in demand from the Far East, recent sales reflect a narrowing of the spread between foreign and U. S. cotton prices, and less aggressive marketing by foreign competitors.

On the domestic front, cotton demand has rebounded sharply this season from 1974-75's depressed mill use of 5.9 million bales. Mill consumption of 6.8 to 7.3 million bales is indicated for 1975-76. However, U. S. mills would undoubtedly be consuming more cotton this year, perhaps 7½ to 8 million bales, were it not for sharply larger cotton textile imports. Also, competition from manmade fibers remains intense.

Increasing imports of cotton textile products are posing a real threat to the domestic textile industry. These imports have picked up sharply in recent months and during December totaled the equivalent of a record 136,100 bales of raw cotton, more than double the year-earlier level. Most of the increased shipments are cloth imports originating in the People's Republic of China, with whom we have no textile trade agreements.

WORLD CIGARETTE OUTPUT SLOWING

World cigarette output continues to climb, but at a slackening pace. While total production hit a record 3.7 billion pieces in 1974, the annual gain proved the weakest in 5 years. Experts say 1975 output probably rose at the same reduced rate. Blamed for the overall slowdown is the generally poor state of the world economy. Antismoking campaigns in most developed countries also continue to dampen cigarette sales.

FOREIGN FLAVOR

They may not taste any different, but today's cigarettes contain a lot more foreign tobacco than they use to. Tobacco from overseas accounted for 17 percent of all tobacco blended into the average American-made cigarette in 1974--versus only 7 percent in the early 1950's. Meantime, U. S. flue-cured's share retreated from 58 to 47 percent. U. S. burley tobacco pretty much held its own, but the share of Maryland leaf slipped from 2 to 1 percent. As they substituted foreign tobaccos for domestic varieties, U. S. cigarette manufactuers also reduced the total tobacco leaf in the average cigarette from 1.22 grams in the early 1950's to 0.87 grams in 1974.

LARGE WHEAT STOCKS

Midway through the 1975-76 crop year, U. S. wheat stocks are the largest in 3 years, a record demand year is in progress, and 1976 potential acreage in wheat is the largest in nearly a quarter century.

January 1 stocks of wheat totaled 1,385 million bushels, 25 percent above a year ago and the largest since the winter of 1973. Around 40 percent of the total was still on farms, about the same as a year ago.

Total disappearance during July-December of 1.1 billion bushels was the second largest on record for that period. Domestic use showed moderate gains from a year ago in all categories except feed. Exports were exceptionally heavy, totaling around 700 million bushels, a fourth ahead of last year's pace. An important factor in the surge was the loading of close to 125 million bushels for the USSR or about 80 percent of their purchases to date. India, Japan, and Brazil were also large buyers.

Demand for the remainder of the year is expected to continue heavy, although it may tail off from the July-December pace. Domestic use may slip to below 300 million bushels. Mill grind is expected to follow the seasonal pattern and weaken. Seed use for January-June will be less as spring wheat accounts for only around a fourth of the planted acreage; since wheat prices continue well above feed grain prices, wheat feeding will be limited.

Exports during January-June are expected to continue heavy. But the attainment of the predicted record export level of 1.3-1.4 billion bushels for 1975-76 will be contingent on a number of factors: the amount of competition from Southern Hemisphere exporters; the extent of additional wheat sales to the USSR; the size of PL-480 sales; and the anticipated adequacy of supplies in the new crop year. Even if total disappearance during 1975-76 reaches the projected level of over 2 billion bushels, carryover stocks may still range from 390 to 465 million bushels compared with 327 million on July 1, 1975.

After declining from September highs, wheat prices to farmers leveled out in December and January, averaging around $3.40 per bushel, some 70 cents below a year earlier. If the export demand continues heavy and it becomes evident that exports will be record large, and if concern heightens about 1976 crop prospects, wheat prices could rise some from current levels. However, if exports lag and a sizable buildup in stocks looms ahead along with favorable 1976 crop developments, prices to farmers could weaken, possibly nearing last season's harvesttime lows of below $3.00 per bushel.

U. S. WINTER WHEAT DAMAGED

The Nation's winter wheat prospects deteriorated during February in the dry southern and central Great Plains, but in other wheat areas mild temperatures and adequate soil moisture put the crop in good condition. Unseasonably high temperatures and the absence of a protective snow blanket in the northern Great Plains dried topsoils making some localities susceptible to wind erosion. Winter wheat broke dormancy earlier than normal as most of the United States except the Pacific Northwest enjoyed above normal temperatures. Precipitation was below normal through most of the major Great Plains wheat area.

Non-irrigated winter wheat acreage in the Oklahoma Panhandle, Texas High Plains, southwest Kansas and adjacent areas of Colorado and New Mexico is in poor condition. Some dryland wheat germinated poorly last fall, received little winter precipitation and has been subjected to serious wind erosion. Some acreage has already been abandoned with farmers concentrating their efforts on limiting soil blowing losses. Other dryland wheat has fairly uniform stands but little growth. March precipitation is essential to maintain growth and to limit further acreage abandonment.

In Idaho and Washington the winter wheat condition was good to excellent. The wheat crop in the Corn Belt generally was in good condition. Along the Atlantic Coast wheat condition was good except in Florida where short soil moisture limited growth.

VEGETABLE SUPPLIES UP

U. S. fresh vegetable supplies this winter probably will turn out to be slightly larger than a year earlier. Current domestic acreage is 6 percent above a year ago. If yields follow historical patterns, production would be at least slightly larger this year. Domestic stocks of onions are small, but tomato, cucumber, and pepper imports from Mexico are expected to be larger. Therefore, for the winter quarter, fresh market vegetable prices to growers probably will average the same to moderately higher than a year earlier. Although the expected larger fresh supplies may moderate any price increase, sharply higher prices for remaining onion supplies may be offsetting.

The combined pack of canned and frozen vegetables in 1975-76 again was moderately larger than the previous season. With sharply larger carryovers of both canned and frozen vegetables, the total available supply is the largest since 1971-72. The total supply is ample, and for some products, the supply is burdensome. Quantities of canned peas, beets, snap beans, spinach, canned tomatoes, and concentrated tomato products are especially heavy at this time. Disappearance of processed vegetables was disappointing through most of 1975, but recently movement has picked up once more. Recent price reductions, plus some recovery in economic activity and possibly the gradual disappearance of home preserved vegetables all point to heavier use of commercially canned and frozen items in the next few months.

The 1975 fall potato crop of 272 million cwt., 9 percent smaller than 1974's record, was marked by increased production in Northwest States and sharply lower crops in Maine and Minnesota-North Dakota. On January 1, remaining potato stocks of 153 million cwt. were 6 percent less than January 1, 1975, and were judged by the trade not to be excessive. Prices received by U. S. growers averaged about $4.00 per cwt. (price for all sales uses) in the fourth quarter of 1975 and by early spring could reach a $5.50-$6.00 range. Attractive prices at planting time could encourage substantially more planted acreage which would mean overproduction in 1976-77.

Winter potato production, at 3 million cwt., as of January 9, is 3 percent higher than 1975. Spring planted acreage shows an upswing, with 96,200 acres, 13 percent higher than 1975. This acreage figure is still well below the average of most other recent seasons.

PEANUT STOCKS UP 14 PERCENT

Commercial holdings of peanuts on January 31, 1976, totaled 2,749 million pounds of equivalent farmers' stock, 14 percent higher than the January 1975 stocks. Actual farmers' stock accounted for 1,945 million pounds of this total while the remainder consisted of 767 million pounds of shelled peanuts and 37 million pounds for in-shell roasting. Commodity Credit Corporation holdings totaled 958 million pounds, about half of the actual farmers' stock total. A year ago, CCC held almost 786 million pounds. This month's CCC total does not include 124 million pounds of 1975 crop peanuts contracted for crushing in January.

Shelled peanut stocks on January 31 totaled nearly 577 million pounds. Included in this total were 520 million pounds of edible grades and 57 million pounds of shelled oil stock. By types, the edible grades included 110 million pounds of Virginias, 280 million pounds of Runners, and 130 million pounds of Spanish-type peanuts. Shelled edible stocks also include 586,000 pounds in cold storage pending export, well below the 5.3 million pounds last year.

During January, 376 million pounds of farmers' stock peanuts were milled, 3 percent more than the 364 million pounds milled a year earlier. This month's total includes 91 million pounds of Virginias, 223 million pounds of Runners, and 62 million pounds of Spanish.

Commercial processors used nearly 97 million pounds of shelled peanuts in the manufacture of specified primary products, 7 percent more than the 90 million pounds utilized a year ago. Most of the increase was in the making of salted peanuts.

FEED SITUATION LOOKS FAVORABLE

Feed grain disappearance in the U. S. in 1975/76 likely will be some 14 to 16 percent above last year's 172 million tons. The current expansion in livestock and poultry feeding and the projected record volume of exports should use up most of the increase in market supplies.

Lower feed grain prices in relation to livestock and poultry product prices have enabled feeders to begin to expand their operations. Feeding in October-December totaled 41 million tons, about the same as a year earlier. An estimated 125-133 million short tons of grains will be used for domestic feeding in 1975/76, 9-16 percent more than in 1974/75. Feed grain exports in 1975/76 likely will be in the record high range of 48-52 million short tons, 21-23 percent more than the 39 million exported in 1974/75. Exports totaled 15 million tons in October-December, the heaviest quarterly movement ever.

Farmers indicated as of January 1 that they intend to plant almost 81 million acres to corn in 1976, 4 percent more than in 1975, and a total of 126 million acres to the four feed grains (corn, sorghum, oats, and barley), 2 percent more than in 1975. These intentions suggest that another large crop may be in the making this year -- if weather is normal.

Prices of No. 2 yellow corn at Chicago in early February were around $2.68 per bushel, about 35 cents below a year ago but a little higher than the harvest lows last fall. Between now and spring planting, there could be some further modest price strength because of stepped-up domestic feeding and the continued heavy export pace. The season average price for 1975 crop corn received by farmers is currently estimated at about $2.50 per bushel, compared with around $3.00 last year. As prospects for 1976 crops unfold, in the spring, they will influence the final outcome of 1975 crop corn prices.

Corn stocks in all positions on January 1 totaled 4.4 billion bushels, a fifth more than a year earlier but near stocks of 2 years ago. Corn disappearance during October-December 1975 was 1.7 billion bushels, 11 percent more than in the same quarter of 1974. Domestic feed use at 1.14 billion bushels was little different from a year earlier. Exports of 454 million bushels were up about two-thirds. Domestic feeding in 1975/76 is projected to increase 11-18 percent and exports may be up 20-30 percent. Total disappearance likely will be only slightly less than 1975 production of 5.8 billion bushels, which would result in a continued small carryover this fall of around 500-600 million bushels.

Stocks of sorghum on January 1, at 476 million bushels, were up a fourth from a year earlier, and October-December 1975 disappearance was 317 million bushels, 3 percent more than in the same 1974 quarter. Minimal carryover stocks are again expected this fall because of strong feed and export demand.

Stocks of barley on January 1 totaled 277 million bushels, a fifth larger than a year earlier. July-December 1975 disappearance of 191 million bushels was down 8 percent because of lower feed demand and exports.

Oat use in July-December 1975 was off 6 percent; beginning supplies were down slightly, and oat prices have been high relative to other feed grains.

High-protein feeding in 1975/76 is expected to approach the previous record 20 million tons as soybean supplies are large and soybean meal prices favor liberal use of protein in feed formulas.

Hay consumption declined in May-December, mostly due to mild weather last fall. But increased use and continued strong prices are seen for January-April because of the cold weather in the East and dry conditions in the West.

WHOLESALE FLOWERS--$6 MILLION BUSINESS IN N. C.

Sales of chrysanthemums, gladioli, roses, and carnations produced in North Carolina by commercial growers in 1975 had a wholesale value near $6 million, but decreased 16 percent from 1974. North Carolina ranked tenth among states in the value of flowers sold.

The value of standard chrysanthemums fell 33 percent to $1,679,000 after an increase of 36 percent the previous year. An estimated 6,560,000 blooms were sold, 27 percent less than in 1974. For pompon mums, the value of sales was $960,000, down 10 percent. About 788,000 bunches were sold, 6 percent fewer than in 1974. Potted mum sales, at $1,931,000, were up 22 percent.

Gladioli sales amounted to only $290,000, down 44 percent. The number of spikes sold, at 2,787,000, was down 54 percent.

Roses had a total sales value of $689,000 versus $720,000 in 1974. An estimated 3,507,000 blooms were cut, a 2 percent increase.

The value of standard carnations sold was $403,000, down 37 percent. The number of blooms sold, at 3,101,000, was down a corresponding 39 percent.

For 1976, growers expressed production intentions as follows: standard mums, up 18 percent; pompon mums, up 5; potted mums, down 7; roses and carnations, no change; gladioli, down 5 percent.

U. S. VALUES HIGHER

The wholesale value of cut flowers and foliage plants surveyed rose to $430 million in 1975, up 24 percent from 1974's $348 million. California remained the largest producer of all crops except gladioli and foliage plants. Florida, the second largest producing area, was first in value of gladioli and foliage plants.

For 1976, commercial flower growers in the 22 states expressed intentions to produce 7 percent fewer carnations, 1 percent fewer standard mums, 11 percent fewer pompon mums, 3 percent less potted mums, 8 percent less gladioli and 3 percent more roses.

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NORTH CAROLINA Farm Report

N. C. Doc.

Federal - State
Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

No. 702 April 8, 1976

PRICE INDEX DROPS FOR FARM PRODUCTS

The ''All Farm Products'' index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets during March was 171, down 2 points from February, but the same as March 1975. A drop in cotton, fruits, and all the livestock indexes caused the decline in the All Farm Products index.

The ''All Crops'' index of prices received, at 163, was unchanged from February. However, cotton was down 7 points, and fruits were down 4 points. On the upside were oil bearing crops by 2 points and grains by 3 points.

The ''Livestock and Livestock Products'' index dropped 6 points from February. This was due to a decline of 3 points for meat animals, 8 points for poultry, and 2 points for dairy.

(See Table, Page 2)

FEBRUARY EGG PRODUCTION DOWN IN N. C., UP IN U. S.

Estimated egg production in North Carolina during February, at 221 million, was down 1 percent from February 1975. The number of layers on hand during February was 11,900,000 compared to 12,650,000 a year earlier. Eggs laid per 100 layers during February, at 1,856, was 5 percent above February 1975. However, this increase was due largely to the extra day in February 1976.

Nationally, laying flocks produced 5.2 billion eggs during February, up 4 percent from 1975. There were 280 million layers on hand; the average rate of lay was up 5 percent.

(See Table, Page 5)

HOG AND PIG NUMBERS INCREASE

All hogs and pigs on Tar Heel farms March 1, 1976 are estimated at 1,920,000, an increase of 13 percent from the 1,700,000 inventory a year earlier. This total consists of 311,000 breeding and 1,609,000 market hogs. March 1 breeding hogs were 14 percent above the 272,000 on hand a year earlier, while the market hogs were 13 percent higher. The number kept for breeding represents 16 percent of the total hogs and pigs on hand, the same as last year.

Estimated sows farrowed during the December 1975 - February 1976 quarter totaled 116,000, an increase of 20 percent from a year earlier. These sows produced an average of 7.10 pigs per litter for a total pig crop of 824,000, an increase of 21 percent from the 1975 pig crop of 679,000.

North Carolina farmers intend to farrow 107,000 sows during March-May 1976 quarter, 15 percent above a year earlier. Producers intend also to

(See Hog & Pig, Page 7)

FARM-RETAIL PRICE SPREAD DECREASES

The farm-retail spread (the charge for assembling, processing, transporting, and distributing a market basket of foods) decreased 0.9 percent from January to February. The farm-retail spread is the difference between the retail cost and farm value of a market basket of U. S. farm-originated foods. Decreases were sharpest for pork, poultry, eggs, and oilseed products and more moderate for bakery and cereal products. Spreads increased for fresh fruits and vegetables, but changed

(See Farm Retail, Page 7)

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DOWN 3 POINTS PRICES PAID INDEX UP 1 POINT

The Index of Prices Received by Farmers decreased 3 points (1½ percent) to 184 percent of its January - December 1967 average during the month ended March 15, 1976. Contributing most to the decrease since mid-February were lower prices for hogs, milk, eggs and cattle. Higher prices for lettuce, tomatoes, lemons and cotton were partially offsetting. The index was 19 points (12 percent) above a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates for March 15 was 194, up 1 point (1/2 percent) from a month earlier. Major contributors to the index increase were higher prices for farm machinery, tractors, used autos, feed, food, and clothing. The index was 15 points (8 percent) higher than a year ago.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARM PRICES INDEX NUMBERS

INDEX (1967 = 100)	March 15 1973	March 15 1974	March 15 1975	Feb. 15 1976	March 15 1976
NORTH CAROLINA					
Prices Received: All Farm Products	3/ 147	3/ 164	3/ 171	173	171
All Crops	3/ 137	3/ 157	3/ 171	163	163
Tobacco	130	134	161	152	152
Cotton	3/ 123	3/ 266	143	225	218
Oil Bearing	191	203	189	173	175
Grains	122	227	203	193	196
Commercial Vegetables	130	3/ 189	187	181	181
Fruits	3/ 126	3/ 141	190	197	193
Livestock and Livestock Products	165	176	172	191	185
Meat Animals	197	3/ 192	170	213	210
Poultry	163	173	176	187	179
Dairy	3/ 125	3/ 159	162	169	167
UNITED STATES					
Prices Received, All Farm Products	3/ 159	3/ 193	165	187	184
Prices Paid, Commodities & Services 1/	3/ 142	3/ 166	179	193	194
Parity Ratio 2/	115	3/ 119	92	97	95

1/ Including Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid. 3/ Revised.

SOME CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRICES IMPROVE

Average prices North Carolina farmers received at local markets about mid-March were mostly higher than a month earlier. (See Table, Page 3.) Corn was up 4 cents per bushel from February to $2.64, while soybeans were up 9 cents to $4.62. Cotton, at 53 cents per pound, was down 2 cents. Beef cattle were up $2.40 per hundredweight and hogs were down $2.30 per hundredweight to $46.10.

North Carolina farmers paid less for most mixed feeds during March. (See Table, Page 3.) Mixed dairy feeds of 14 percent and 16 percent protein were down $2.00 per ton from February. Of the poultry feeds, laying feed was up $2.00 to $148.00 per ton. In the high protein feed category, cottonseed meal (41 percent) was up 10 cents to $9.70 per hundredweight and soybean meal (44 percent) was down 20 cents to $9.30.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

TYPE OF FEED	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	March 15 1975	Feb. 15 1976	March 15 1976	March 15 1975	Feb. 15 1976	March 15 1976
	Per Ton - Dollars					
Mixed Dairy Feed						
14% Protein	132.00	135.00	133.00	131.00	133.00	134.00
16% Protein	136.00	136.00	134.00	130.00	136.00	136.00
32% Protein	165.00	164.00	164.00	165.00	177.00	174.00
Poultry Feeds						
Chick Starter	165.00	162.00	159.00	162.00	162.00	162.00
Broiler Grower	171.00	175.00	174.00	161.00	160.00	160.00
Laying Feed 1/	151.00	146.00	148.00	143.00	143.00	145.00
Turkey Grower 1/	165.00	167.00	165.00	161.00	165.00	165.00
	Per 100 Lbs. - Dollars					
Grain By-Products						
Bran	7.80	7.40	7.40	7.11	7.37	7.38
Middlings	7.60	7.40	7.20	6.98	7.26	7.26
Corn Meal	7.10	6.90	6.90	6.96	6.52	6.58
High Protein Feeds						
Cottonseed Meal 41%	9.70	9.60	9.70	8.69	9.42	9.47
Soybean Meal 44%	9.30	9.50	9.30	8.37	8.84	8.86

1/ Complete ration feeds which are fed without further mixing or supplementations.

COMMODITY PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		Mar. 15 1975	Feb. 15 1976	Mar. 15 1976*	Mar. 15 1975	Feb. 15 1976	Mar. 15 1976*
		Dollars					
Tobacco	Lb.	-	-	-	-	1.071	.992
Corn	Bu.	2.75	2.60	2.64	2.67	.248	2.50
Wheat	Bu.	3.12	3.10	3.20	3.65	3.66	3.65
Oats	Bu.	1.53	1.53	1.56	1.46	1.46	1.46
Barley	Bu.	2.11	1.98	1.98	2.55	2.31	2.34
Rye	Bu.	3.00	-	-	2.15	2.26	2.32
Sorghum Grains	Cwt.	4.69	4.23	4.26	4.03	4.09	4.13
Soybeans	Bu.	5.26	4.53	4.62	5.31	4.50	4.46
Peanuts	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cotton	Lb.	.350	.550	.533	.300	.498	.504
Cottonseed	Ton	-	-	-	106.50	90.50	88.50
Wool	Lb.	-	-	-	.331	.531	.528
Hogs	Cwt.	38.20	48.40	46.10	38.30	47.90	45.50
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	21.80	26.20	28.60	27.80	34.20	33.60
Veal Calves	Cwt.	28.60	34.90	38.90	24.70	34.40	35.30
Milk Cows	Hd.	305.00	320.00	325.00	390.00	465.00	471.00
Com'l. Broilers	Lb.	.235	.250	.250	.237	.252	.244
Turkeys	Lb.	.350	.350	.350	.303	.321	.325
Eggs 1/	Doz.	.642	.691	.616	.541	.598	.541
Milk, Whlse	Cwt.	10.40	10.80	10.70	8.13	9.79	9.71
Potatoes	Cwt.	-	-	-	3.16	4.80	4.95
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt.	9.40	9.30	9.20	9.80	9.98	10.30
Apples, Com'l.	Lb.	.110	.091	.087	.113	.083	.091
Lespedeza Seed	Cwt.	46.40	43.00	46.00	42.70	33.40	38.90
Hay, All	Ton	52.50	53.50	51.00	49.70	54.30	54.10
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	58.50	56.00	55.00	52.40	58.60	58.20
Other	Ton	52.50	53.50	51.00	44.20	46.70	46.10

*1/ Average of all eggs sold by farmers including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail by farmers. * Preliminary.*

HATCHERY PRODUCTION GAINS

North Carolina commercial hatcheries produced 27,243,000 chicks during February, up 12 percent from February 1975. The hatch consisted of 26,843,000 broiler-type and 400,000 egg-type chicks compared to 23,811,000 broiler-type and 458,000 egg-type chicks a year earlier.

For the U. S., broiler-type chicks hatched were up 12 percent and egg-type chicks hatched were up 7 percent from February last year.

CHICKS HATCHED -- FEBRUARY

STATE	BROILER-TYPE		EGG-TYPE		ALL TYPES	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands					
North Carolina	23,811	26,843	458	400	24,269	27,243
South Carolina	1,687	1,901	687	826	2,374	2,727
Georgia	34,588	37,043	2,975	4,797	37,563	41,840
Florida	5,369	7,095	3,286	3,214	8,655	10,309
Delaware	10,965	12,285	1/	1/	10,965	12,285
Maryland	15,995	16,269	1/	1/	15,995	16,269
Virginia	6,725	7,295	613	797	7,338	8,092
UNITED STATES	238,974	267,930	36,552	39,197	275,526	307,127

1/ Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations.

POULT HATCH INCREASES

The commercial hatch of turkey poults in the U. S. during February, at 13.7 million, was up 14 percent from a year earlier. The hatch of heavy breeds was up 15 percent to 12.3 million poults and light breeds were up 5 percent to 1.4 million.

POULTS HATCHED -- FEBRUARY

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION	HEAVY BREEDS 1/		LIGHT BREEDS 2/		ALL BREEDS	
	1975 3/	1976	1975 3/	1976	1975 3/	1976
	Thousands					
North Atlantic	169	206	4	14	173	220
East North Central	1,563	1,376	80	98	1,643	1,474
West North Central	3,651	4,309	753	744	4,404	5,053
South Atlantic	1,575	1,844	393	413	1,968	2,257
South Central	1,409	1,676	43	0	1,452	1,676
West	2,290	2,867	94	169	2,384	3,036
UNITED STATES	10,657	12,278	1,367	1,438	12,024	13,716

1/ Includes birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is 12 pounds or over. 2/ Includes birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is less than 12 pounds. 3/ Revised.

STATE'S HATCHERIES PRODUCED FEWER CHICKS BUT MORE POULTS IN 1975

Commercial hatcheries in North Carolina produced 316,756,000 chicks during 1975, down 1 percent from the 320,032,000 produced in 1974.

Commercial turkey hatcheries in the State produced 15,609,000 poults during 1975, an increase of 1 percent from 1974.

In the U. S., commercial hatcheries produced 3.62 billion chicks in 1975, up 1 percent from 3.58 billion produced in 1974.

Nationally, commercial turkey hatcheries produced 137 million poults during 1975, down 2 percent from 1974.

NUMBER OF LAYERS AND EGG PRODUCTION -- FEBRUARY

STATE	LAYERS ON HAND		EGGS PER 100 LAYERS		TOTAL EGGS PRODUCED	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands		*Number*		*Millions*	
North Carolina	12,650	11,900	1,772	1,856	224	221
Virginia	3,235	3,328	1,814	1,859	59	62
South Carolina	5,685	5,945	1,859	1,842	106	110
Georgia	23,675	23,322	1,770	1,914	419	446
Florida	11,863	12,005	1,789	1,839	212	221
UNITED STATES	282,433	279,778	1,771	1,855	5,001	5,191

CATTLE SLAUGHTER UP, HOG DOWN

During February, commercial slaughter of livestock in North Carolina totaled 46,735,000 pounds live weight, an increase of 7 percent from February 1975. The number of head slaughtered was 153,800, slightly below the 154,000 head slaughtered last year in February. Cattle slaughter at 15,860,000 pounds live weight was up 25 percent. Veal production increased 69 percent to 230,000 pounds live weight. Hog slaughter was down 1 percent to 30,645,000 pounds live weight. There was no sheep and lamb slaughter reported for February.

Commercial production of red meat in the United States totaled 2.9 billion pounds in February, 1 percent above February 1975 and 9 percent over February 1974. Commercial meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER 1/

SPECIES	FEBRUARY				JANUARY THROUGH FEBRUARY			
	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thous. Head		*Thous. Lbs.*		*Thous. Head*		*Thous. Lbs.*	
	NORTH CAROLINA							
Cattle	14.4	17.8	12,715	15,860	32.4	41.2	28,195	37,037
Calves	.6	1.0	136	230	.9	1.6	217	350
Sheep & Lambs	-	-	-	-	-	.1	-	10
Hogs	139.0	135.0	30,997	30,645	292.0	283.0	66,034	64,833
TOTAL	154.0	153.8	43,848	46,735	325.3	325.9	94,446	102,230
	Million Head		*Million Lbs.*		*Million Head*		*Million Lbs.*	
	UNITED STATES							
Cattle	3.1	3.3	3,148	3,381	6.6	7.1	6,730	7,167
Calves	.3	.4	89	109	.7	.9	192	240
Sheep & Lambs	.6	.5	63	58	1.3	1.1	134	124
Hogs	5.9	5.1	1,389	1,209	12.7	10.8	3,019	2,593
TOTAL	9.9	9.3	4,689	4,757	21.3	19.9	10,075	10,124

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

NUMBER GRADE ''A'' PRODUCERS AND AVERAGE DAILY MILK PRODUCTION PER PRODUCER IN NORTH CAROLINA

MONTH	NUMBER OF GRADE ''A'' PRODUCERS			1975 AS % OF		AVERAGE DAILY PRODUCTION PER PRODUCER			1975 AS % OF	
	1975	1974	1973	1974	1973	1975	1974	1973	1974	1973
	Number			Percent		Pounds			Percent	
January	1,646	1,747	1,923	94.2	85.6	2,243	2,048	1,957	109.5	114.6
February	1,648	1,737	1,916	94.9	86.0	2,292	2,100	1,971	109.1	116.3
March	1,641	1,729	1,905	94.9	86.1	2,319	2,167	2,020	107.0	114.8
April	1,630	1,721	1,882	94.7	86.6	2,412	2,208	2,062	109.2	117.0
May	1,628	1,712	1,859	95.1	87.6	2,370	2,166	2,022	109.4	117.2
June	1,627	1,702	1,828	95.6	89.0	2,211	2,023	1,860	109.3	118.9
July	1,624	1,689	1,807	96.2	89.9	2,139	1,988	1,811	107.6	118.1
August	1,620	1,679	1,797	96.5	90.2	2,121	2,019	1,817	105.1	116.7
September	1,613	1,670	1,782	96.6	90.5	2,195	2,061	1,843	106.5	119.1
October	1,596	1,652	1,771	96.6	90.1	2,243	2,100	1,891	106.8	118.6
November	1,590	1,647	1,755	96.5	90.6	2,294	2,146	1,936	106.9	118.5
December	1,586	1,646	1,754	96.4	90.4	2,350	2,167	1,986	108.4	118.3

AVERAGE PRICES PAID PRODUCERS AND BUTTERFAT CONTENT OF GRADE ''A'' MILK USED IN ALL PRODUCTS NORTH CAROLINA, JANUARY - DECEMBER 1974-75

MONTH	PRICES PER CWT. FOR 3.5% BUTTERFAT		PRICES PER CWT. BASED ON BUTTERFAT		BUTTERFAT TEST	
	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974
	Dollars				Percent	
January	10.33	10.13	10.54	10.33	3.80	3.78
February	10.28	10.12	10.46	10.30	3.75	3.75
March	10.20	10.08	10.37	10.21	3.74	3.69
April	10.16	10.08	10.27	10.19	3.65	3.66
May	10.23	10.04	10.27	10.09	3.56	3.58
June	10.11	9.88	10.10	9.91	3.48	3.54
July	10.23	9.89	10.22	9.90	3.48	3.51
August	10.43	9.96	10.41	9.96	3.47	3.50
September	10.79	10.23	10.83	10.27	3.55	3.55
October	10.81	10.30	10.94	10.45	3.69	3.71
November	10.71	10.17	10.89	10.35	3.75	3.75
December	10.65	9.96	10.86	10.21	3.80	3.85
AVERAGE	10.40	10.07	10.51	10.18	3.65	3.65

HOG AND PIG NUMBERS (Cont'd. From Page 1)

farrow 105,000 sows during the June-August 1976 quarter, 12 percent above the same quarter in 1975.

14 STATE HOG NUMBERS UP 10 PERCENT

Hogs and pigs on farms March 1, 1976 in the 14 Quarterly States totaled an estimated 40.9 million head, up 1 percent from March 1, 1975. The number kept for breeding, at 6.7 million, was 10 percent above the same date last year. Market hogs at 34.2 million were slightly below March 1, 1975.

HOGS AND PIGS -- MARCH 1, 1976 REPORT; Number On Farms, Sows Farrowing, and Pig Crop, 1975-1976

	NORTH CAROLINA			14 STATES*		
	1975	1976	1976 As % 1975	1975	1976	1976 As % 1975
	Thousand Head		Percent	Thousand Head		Percent
NUMBER ON FARMS MARCH 1:						
All Hogs and Pigs	1,700	1,920	113	40,330	40,865	101
Kept for Breeding	272	311	114	6,080	6,706	110
Market	1,428	1,609	113	34,250	34,159	100
Market Hogs and Pigs By Weight Groups:						
Under 60 pounds	630	724	115	12,206	13,631	112
60-119 pounds	348	402	116	8,134	7,762	95
120-179 pounds	261	280	107	8,043	7,324	91
180-219 pounds	151	166	110	5,013	4,585	91
220 pounds and over	38	37	97	854	857	100
NUMBER ON FARMS DEC. 1:						
All Hogs and Pigs	1,900	-	-	41,855	-	-
Kept for Breeding	304	-	-	6,368	-	-
Market	1,596	-	-	35,487	-	-
SOWS FARROWING:						
December 1/ - February	97	116	120	1,778	2,047	115
March - May	93	2/ 107	115	2,428	2/ 2,675	110
December 1/ - May	190	3/ 223	117	4,206	3/ 4,722	112
June - August	94	2/ 105	112	2,088	2/ 2,312	111
September - November	83	-	-	2,103	-	-
June - November	177	-	-	4,191	-	-
PIG CROP:						
December 1/ - February	679	824	121	12,540	14,552	116
PIGS PER LITTER:		Number			Number	
December 1/ - February	7.00	7.10	101	7.05	7.11	101

1/ December preceding year. 2/ Intentions. 3/ December-February farrowings plus intentions for March-May. * Includes Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minn., Missouri, Nebraska, N. C., Ohio, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisc.

FARM RETAIL PRICE (Cont'd. From Page 1)

little for most other foods. The farm-retail spread in February averaged 3.5 percent wider than in February 1975.

Returns to farmers (farm value of quantities equivalent to retail units) for market basket foods also decreased 0.9 percent from January to February. Decreases were particularly sharp for beef cattle, poultry, and fresh fruits and vegetables, primarily oranges, lemons, tomatoes, and lettuce. Partially offsetting were significant increases for eggs and wheat, while returns for other products changed relatively little. In February, the farm value of the market basket averaged 5.9 percent higher than a year earlier. The farmer's share of a dollar spent in retail food stores for these foods was 40.4 cents in February, the same as in January and 39.8 cents in February 1975. Prices paid by farmers for farm production inputs were unchanged from January to February.

COMPARISON OF PRICES RECEIVED BY U. S. FARMERS AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY PRICES 1/		AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	Feb. 15 1976	March 15 1976	Feb. 15 1976	March 15 1976	Feb. 15 1976	March 15 1976
	Dollars				*Percent*	
Cotton, Lb.	.498	.504	.7866	.7902	63	64
Wheat, Bu.	3.66	3.65	4.86	4.88	75	75
Corn, Bu.	2.48	2.50	3.26	3.27	76	76
Oats, Bu.	1.46	1.46	1.59	1.60	92	91
Barley, Bu.	2.31	2.34	2.80	2.81	83	83
Rye, Bu.	2.26	2.32	2.53	2.54	89	91
Beef Cattle, Cwt.	34.20	33.60	56.80	57.10	60	59
Hogs, Cwt.	47.90	45.50	52.20	52.50	92	87
Lambs, Cwt.	46.80	49.70	58.00	58.30	81	85
Eggs, Doz.	.598	.541	.780	.784	5/ 75	5/ 66
Milk, Whlse., Cwt. 2/.	3/ 9.79	4/ 9.71	12.00	12.10	3/5/ 78	5/ 79

1/ Parity prices as computed currently using base prices in effect and indexes for months indicated. 2/ Estimated average price for the month for all milk sold at wholesale to plants and dealers. 3/ Revised. 4/ Preliminary. 5/ Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices.

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FREEZES AND DRY WEATHER DAMAGE CROPS

The first week of March was unseasonably warm with record breaking readings in many areas. Rainfall was widespread during the second week. A hard freeze occurred the third week of March causing varying amounts of crop damage. Conditions during the remainder of March and the first two weeks of April were generally warm and dry. Soil moisture as of April 17 was 34 percent very short and 66 percent short, statewide, with the Coastal Plains being drier than the rest of the state.

The major farm activity during March was preparing land for planting. Some corn was planted toward the end of the month but planting did not get underway on a full scale until the first full week of April. Other activities included tobacco plant bed maintenance with a small amount of early transplanting being done toward the end of the month, fertilizer application, spraying fruit trees and general repair and maintenance of fences, buildings and equipment. Almost all the Irish potatoes were planted by month's end. Most

(See Crops, Page 2)

RECORD HIGH OUTPUT PER COW

Milk production on North Carolina farms during March is estimated at 136 million pounds, up 1 million pounds from a year earlier and 7 million pounds above March 1974. Production for the first quarter of 1976 was 4 percent above the same period last year. Milk produced per cow set a record high for March at 890 pounds, 10 pounds above March 1975. Milk cows on farms totaled

(See Milk, Page 6)

GROWERS INTEND LESS TOBACCO

During a survey conducted around April 1, North Carolina growers indicated they would set about 421,000 acres of flue-cured tobacco for harvest in 1976, or about 10 percent less than harvested in 1975. The 15 percent cut in base allotments was not fully reflected because of carry-over from 1975. Carry-over was substantial in some type 11 areas.

Expected acreage by areas and the change from last year are: Type 11--172,000 acres, down 4 percent; Type 12--198,000 acres down 14 percent; Type 13--51,000 acres, down 18 percent. (See table, page 3 for more detail.)

Because of an unseasonable early

(See Tobacco Acreage, Page 2)

MORE CORN, LESS SOYBEANS

Reacting to market conditions, farmers in both North Carolina and the rest of the Nation indicate there will be a significant trade-off between corn and soybean plantings this year.

If intentions reported about April 1 are followed, the Tar Heel corn crop will climb to 1,900,000 acres, 12 percent above 1975's acreage and the highest since 1960. Meanwhile, soybeans will drop to 1,250,000 acres, some 17 percent below last year's plantings.

Corn planted in the U. S. will total around 82.7 million--up 6 percent from 1975--if producers carry out intentions. Soybeans will drop 10 percent to 49.3 million acres.

Corn planting made rapid progress in North Carolina during early April. By April 17, about half the crop had been seeded compared with a third by the similar date a year ago.

CROPS *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

agricultural activities continue to progress ahead of normal.

As of April 17, crop conditions were as follows; wheat, oats, barley and rye were in fair to mostly good condition. Tobacco plant beds were mostly fair to good and transplanting was 11 percent complete statewide. This compares with about 6 percent last year and a five-year average of 8 percent. Corn planting got off to an early start and was 50 percent complete by April 17 compared with 26 percent a year earlier and a five-year average of 21 percent. Irish potatoes were reported to be in mostly fair to good condition. Vegetables and pastures were poor to good but mostly fair.

Frost damage during March was light as far as apples were concerned but peaches sustained varying amounts of damage, the extent of which has not yet been assessed. Below freezing temperatures occurred again around April 10 causing tobacco plant, Irish potato and vegetable damage. Tobacco has to be replanted in some areas. The blueberry crop sustained serious damage--losses around 75 percent have been reported.

TOBACCO ACREAGE *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

plant supply much of the State's crop has been transplanted well ahead of normal. However, frost and freezing temperatures about April 10 damaged much of the crop in the fields, some to the extent that it has been or will be completely re-set. Plant supplies are generally adequate but shortages in some areas are reported.

For the U. S., total flue-cured is indicated at 645,000 acres, 10 percent below 1975.

BURLEY ACREAGE DROPS

Burley producers in N. C. intend to set about 8,500 acres of type 31 this year compared with 9,000 in 1975, U. S. burley is indicated at 275,700 acres versus 278,500 acres harvested last season.

Combined acreage of all tobacco produced in the Nation will total 1,009,000 acres in 1976 if intentions expressed by growers materialize.

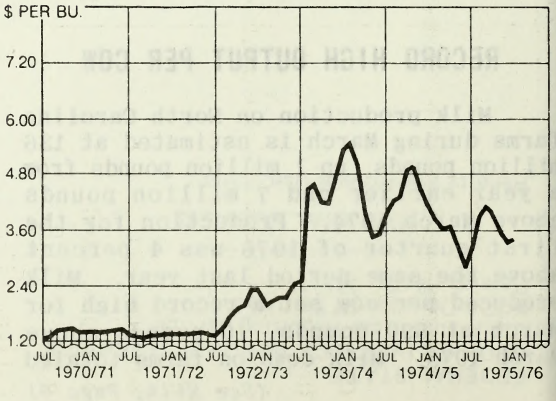
WINTER WHEAT GROWTH SLOW

The Nation's winter wheat crop, despite early breaking of dormancy this spring, made less than normal growth during March. Near normal conditions prevail in most areas outside the major winter wheat producing southern and central Great Plains. In the dry areas of Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, winter wheat prospects deteriorated during March as below normal precipitation continued in this drought area.

Winter wheat production in 1976 in Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas is forecast at 522 million bushels based on April 1 conditions. This is down 48 million bushels or 8 percent from the December 1, 1975 forecast and 182 million bushels or 26 percent below the final 1975 output for these 5 States. Acreage to be harvested for grain in these States is expected to total 23.0 million acres, 15 percent below last year. Acreage planted for the 1976 crop was slightly above a year earlier, but the April 1 indicated percent for grain is only 76 compared with 91 percent harvested last year.

Estimates for these five States are based on a special survey of winter wheat producers conducted about April 1. Producers in other winter wheat States were not surveyed for this report. The U. S. winter wheat crop for 1976 was forecast at 1,496 million bushels in the Winter Wheat and Rye Seedings report issued December 22, 1975.

WHEAT PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS



PLANTED ACRES OF CROPS, NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES

CROPS	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES 1/			
	1974	1975	1976 Intentions 2/	1976 As Percent Of 1975	1974	1975	1976 Intentions 2/	1976 As Percent Of 1975
	Thousands			*Percent*	*Thousands*			*Percent*
Corn, All	1,720	1,700	1,900	112	77,787	77,902	82,727	106
Oats 3/	160	165	170	103	17,967	17,386	16,757	96
Barley 3/	70	70	75	107	8,994	9,526	9,201	97
Winter Wheat 3/	310	345	4/320	93	52,354	56,163	4/57,227	102
Rye 3/	115	125	4/130	104	3,200	3,166	4/ 3,031	96
Sorghum, All	110	110	125	114	17,676	18,275	17,897	98
Soybeans, Alone, All	1,475	1,500	1,250	83	53,507	54,577	49,330	90
Peanuts, Alone, All	168	167	168	101	1,520	1,532	1,538	100
Cotton, All 5/	158	55	70	127	13,699	9,691	11,256	116
Tobacco: Type 11 6/	152.0	179.0	172.0	96	-	-	-	-
Type 12 6/	188.0	229.0	198.0	86	-	-	-	-
Type 13 6/	50.0	62.0	51.0	82	-	-	-	-
All Flue-Cured 6/	390.0	470.0	421.0	90	616.3	717.2	644.6	90
Burley 6/	8.0	9.0	8.5	94	260.8	278.5	275.7	99
All Tobacco 6/	398.0	479.0	429.5	90	962.6	1,083.5	1,009.3	93
Hay, All 6/	325	325	340	105	60,571	61,863	62,623	101
Irish Potatoes, All	17.8	16.6	17.7	107	1166.5	1076.8	1117.2	104
Spring	13.1	12.2	13.1	107	104.3	85.4	100.0	117
Summer	4.7	4.4	4.6	105	136.3	120.8	124.5	103
Sweet Potatoes	30.0	33.0	37.0	112	125.6	122.9	128.2	104

1/ Data do not include Alaska and Hawaii. 2/ As of April 1, 1976. 3/ Includes acreage planted in preceding fall. 4/ Estimates made in December 1975. 5/ Includes Upland and American-Pima. 6/ Data for tobacco and hay represent harvested acres.

TOBACCO USE EXPECTED TO DROP

Domestic use and exports of U. S. tobacco during 1975-76 are expected to total less than the 1975 crop, raising carryover stocks materially over the carryin. Smaller quotas for flue-cured and burley tobacco this year could result in a 1976 crop slightly under last year's 2.18 billion pounds. The larger prospective carryover will push the 1976-77 tobacco supply above the current year.

In 1975, the largest crop since 1964 combined with larger than expected beginning stocks to raise the domestic leaf supply for 1975-76 to 5.2 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the previous year. By January 1, 1976, nonfarm stocks had increased 7 percent above a year earlier, and by the end of this marketing year stocks should total about 200 million pounds above the beginning level of 3 billion pounds.

U. S. tobacco growers may reduce plantings this year from the 1.1 million acres harvested in 1975. Effective farm quotas are down 11 percent for flue-cured and 3 percent for burley, in each case due to smaller basis quotas.

The price support levels for eligible tobacco will be 13.7 percent higher than last year. The rise is due to the legal formula that measures changes prices paid by farmers.

Domestic use of U. S. grown tobacco picked up during July-December 1975 with a gain in cigarette output. Total disappearance for the 1975-76 marketing year will rise over last year and approach 1973-74's level of 1.35 billion pounds.

Last year's output of cigarettes gained 2½ percent to a record 651 billion as manufacturers rebuilt inventories. Filter-tips continued rising to 88 percent of total output. The 7-percent average increase in cigarette prices was less than the gain for all consumer items.

U. S. smokers puffed a record 607 billion cigarettes in 1975 or 1 percent more than the previous year. Consumption per adult at 4,121 cigarettes (206 packs) was 0.7 percent lower. With little change in per capita use, but increasing population, 1976's total cigarette use could climb.

Chewing tobacco and snuff will register another small sales gain. On the other hand, sales of smoking tobacco and cigars, with the exception of higher priced cigars, may decrease again.

For the year ending June 30, 1976, unmanufactured tobacco exports may fall short of the 604 million pounds shipped in 1974-75, but the value is expected to rise. Volume totaled 438 million pounds (farm-sales weight) for July-January, 2 percent above a year earlier. Exports during the rest of the season may hold close to year-earlier levels due to larger supplies at steadier prices. Japan and several medium-size destiantions took more tobacco, but major destinations including the United Kingdom, and West Germany, took less U. S. tobacco than in July 1974-January 1975.

U. S. tobacco exports gained 5 percent in value to a record of $1.25 billion in calendar 1975. The gain was largely due to higher prices. However, rising prices overseas have not blunted the rising sales trend to U. S. cigarettes. The declared value of U. S. cigarette exports rose to $368 million in 1975, up one-fifth from 1974, reflecting an increase in both unit value and quantity. Along with other tobacco products, the manufactured export category reached $401 million. Unmanufactured tobacco exports were worth $852 million. Export weight of unmanufactured tobacco totaled 563 million pounds (equivalent to 634 million pounds, farmsales weight).

The surplus in value of U. S. tobacco exports over imports held at almost $1 billion. Unmanufactured tobacco imports for consumption increased 7 percent to 320 million pounds last year. The gain in leaf categories more than offset a decline in scrap tobacco imports. Last year's imports accounted for about one-fifth of the tobacco used in U. S. cigarette production, and a similarly high proportion is likely this year.

Flue-cured tobacco disappearance in the current marketing year (July 1975-June 1976) may gain over the previous year's 1.2 billion pounds. Domestic use is expected to rise slightly, although exports could fall below last year's level. The larger 1975 crop means carryover in mid-1976 may rise 175-200 million pounds from the 1.65 billion pounds carryin.

(See Tobacco Use, Page 5)

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE REPORT, APRIL 1

SNAP BEANS (Spring): Snap bean producers in North Carolina expect to harvest 2,900 acres of fresh market snap beans in the spring of 1976. This is up 100 acres from last spring and the same as that harvested in 1974. North Carolina ranks third behind Florida and South Carolina in acres intended for harvest in 1976. Spring weather has been generally favorable and planting got underway a week to 10 days ahead of normal.

The prospective U. S. acres for harvest during the spring quarter of 1976 is placed at 22,400 acres, 7 percent more than the 21,000 acres harvested in 1975. Based on a three year average yield, this crop is projected at 762,000 cwt., which would be 4 percent more than the 1975 spring crop.

In Florida, the southeast area is supplying a steady volume of variable quality beans.

CABBAGE (Spring): Growers of spring cabbage in North Carolina intend to harvest 2,400 acres. This is 300 more than a year ago and 200 above the 1974 level. North Carolina ranks fifth among the states in intended acres for harvest in 1976 with Florida ranking first. The North Carolina crop appears to be off to a good start. Adequate amounts of soil moisture and warm temperatures have provided favorable conditions.

Prospective U. S. acreage for harvest during the 1976 spring quarter is placed at 18,400 acres, 8 percent more than the 17,050 acres harvested during the same quarter in 1975. Based on a three year average yield, this acreage is expected to produce 3.6 million cwt. which would be 3 percent more than the 1975 spring crop.

In Florida, harvest is now active in all areas. Quality has been variable but is improving on later plantings. Yields are fair, but well below the high yields of a year ago.

CUCUMBERS (Spring): Intended acreage of fresh market cucumbers for harvest in North Carolina is 2,800 for 1976. This is an increase of 300 acres from last year and 500 acres from the 1974 total. This acreage puts North Carolina in fourth place behind Florida, South Carolina and Texas. Planting of the North Carolina crop was earlier than normal this year.

Acres for harvest in the U. S. during the 1976 spring quarter is placed at 17,800 acres, 3 percent more than the 17,300 acres harvested in spring of 1975. This acreage is expected to provide 1.7 million cwt. for spring quarter production based on a three year average yield -- 2 percent less than in the comparable period of 1975.

In Florida, crop condition and growth are very good in southern areas. Light harvest is underway but with low yields. Wind damaged some fields in central areas where the crop condition is fair to good.

TOBACCO USE *(Cont'd. From Page 4)*

Flue-cured production could turn out 5-10 percent below last year's 1.41 billion pounds. This projection assumes an average crop outturn in relation to the effective quota. However, with the larger beginning stocks, next season's supply may run about 3 percent above the 3.1 billion pounds available in the current marketing year.

With larger domestic use and exports, total disappearance of burley tobacco in 1975-76 (October-September) may rise from last year's 586 million pounds. Reduced yields held back last year's production; the auction sales that ended in late February indicated a 1975 crop size of around 635 million, 4 percent above 1974. But burley carryover next October 1 won't change much from the year-earlier level.

USDA set the 1976 burley marketing quota at 630 million pounds. But the 1976 farm quota, reflecting 1975's large undermarketings, totals about 725 million pounds. This is 25 million below last season's effective quota but about 90 million pounds more than this season's marketings, so burley production may not change significantly.

Acreage allotments for fire-cured, dark air-cured, cigar binder and Ohio cigar filler were set for 1976 at the same levels as last year. Supplies remain near the normal supply level defined in quota legislation, so USDA may have to consider suspending quotas on these kinds for the 1976 crops.

MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION--MARCH

STATE	MILK COWS ON FARMS 1/			MILK PER COW 2/			MILK PRODUCTION 2/			
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1976 As % OF 1975
	Thousands			*Pounds*			*Million Pounds*			*Percent*
N. C.	153	153	153	840	880	890	129	135	136	101
Md.	134	139	141	900	940	925	121	131	130	99
Va.	159	159	159	880	910	880	140	145	140	97
Ga.	130	129	127	830	820	840	108	106	107	101
Fla.	201	198	197	850	905	925	171	179	182	102
U. S.	11,243	11,189	11,072	889	896	926	9,993	10,021	10,250	102

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

MILK *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

153,000, unchanged from last month and last year.

U. S. PRODUCTION RISES

March milk production totaled 10,250 million pounds, up 2.3 percent from a year earlier and 2.6 percent above March, 1974. Production for the first quarter of 1976 was 3.1 percent above the same period last year and 3.4 percent above 1974.

Milk cows during March, at 11,072,-000 head, were unchanged from last month but off 1 percent from a year ago. This is the first month since December 1974 that milk cows did not show a decline from the previous month.

March production per cow averaged 926 pounds, 30 pounds more than a year ago, and 37 pounds above march 1974.

The March milk - feed price ratio, at 1.64 was 1 percent below February but 19 percent above March 1975, the result of higher milk prices than a year earlier. The average price of milk sold to plants was below the previous month in all regions except the North Central, while feed costs were up in all regions except the South Atlantic.

MILK-FEED PRICE RATIOS, MILK PRICES, AND RATION VALUES, BY REGIONS AND UNITED STATES, MARCH 1976, WITH COMPARISONS 1/

REGION	MILK-FEED PRICE RATIO 2/			ALL MILK PRICE PER CWT.			RATION VALUE 3/		
	Mar. 1975	Feb. 1976	Mar. 1976	Mar. 1975	Feb. 1976	Mar. 1976	Mar. 1975	Feb. 1976	Mar. 1976
	Pounds			*Dollars*					
N. Atlantic	1.38	1.67	1.62	8.30	10.40	10.10	6.01	6.21	6.23
N. Central	1.36	1.70	1.71	7.58	9.27	9.36	5.58	5.44	5.48
S. Atlantic	1.58	1.69	1.71	9.77	11.00	10.90	6.19	6.50	6.38
S. Central	1.43	1.65	1.63	8.68	10.40	10.30	6.08	6.29	6.30
West	1.32	1.57	1.49	8.42	9.66	9.28	6.39	6.17	6.24
U. S.	1.38	1.66	1.64	8.13	9.79	9.71	5.90	5.89	5.91

1/ Data for current month are preliminary. 2/ Pounds of concentrate ration equal in value to 1 pound milk sold to plants. 3/ Value per 100 pounds of concentrate ration fed to milk cows.

EARTHLY REALITIES*

The green leaf governs the economy of nature. Every living creature, with minor exceptions, is utterly dependent upon plants and photosynthesis. Powered by sunlight, the chlorophyll in leaves turns carbon dioxide and water into the sugar that ultimately sustains all life.

Modern science, with its great discoveries, stands humbled by the awesome food-producing ability of the plant kingdom. Certainly no single chemical reaction is more vital to man than photosynthesis. Every year plants take up vast tonnages of carbon released by decaying wastes and transform it into plant material, and in the process recharge the biosphere with life-sustaining oxygen. As partakers of these benefits we should always remember that, biologically speaking, we are plant parasites--although we have long been cotenants of the Earth, plants existed before man and need him not at all. The earthly realities are that man cannot really hold dominion but must live in harmony with the natural world.

Many of our activities adversely affect the well-being of plants. It is perverse paradox that we damage plant life most where we need it most, around our burgeoning population centers. We can alleviate much of this damage through an awareness of the interdependencies that make up the unity of life and acting accordingly. The building of homes and roads without regard to drainage patterns, for example, can drown nearby plant communities. Once construction is completed, the tramp of feet and the roll of traffic, often on seemingly invulnerable sites, can exact a heavy toll of plant life by compacting the soil, lessening its capacity to harbor water and air. Every winter, tons of salt are spread on streets and highways, polluting the water supply of many plants and eventually killing them because their roots cannot take up salt water.

Even the mundane trappings of modern life do their share of damage. Air conditioners emit strong drafts that can rob cells of their turgidity, thus drying off the plant. And kitchen fans propel cooking fats and oils outdoors where they clog leaf surfaces and interfere with plant respiration.

Nature's power of renewal heals many abuses. Even so, the quality of human life would gain if we realized that man lives because he is surrounded by plants. We can create harmony between man and nature by practicing the kind of stewardship exemplified by French farmers who live in graceful villages amid ever fertile fields tilled well over 4,000 years. The gift of green can be husbanded with wisdom and knowledge.---R.P.K.

**From "Agricultural Research", April 1976 Issue.*

COTTON REBOUNDS, LITTLE CHANGE IN PEANUT ACREAGE

As of April 1, prospective cotton plantings in North Carolina are 70,000 acres--a fourth higher than last year's 55,000 acres. Reports from across the U. S. indicate plantings of 11.3 million acres, up 16 percent.

Growers reported peanuts would total about 168,000 acres in the State this year, little change from the level of other recent years. U. S. expected peanut seedings are placed at 1.54 million acres, slightly more than 1975's.

Among other crops in N. C., reports indicated slightly more acreage of oats, barley, hay, Irish potatoes, and sweet potatoes (see table page 3).

1976 TOBACCO LOAN RATES MUCH HIGHER

The U. S. Department of Agriculture announced on April 7 a proposed loan program for 1976-crop tobacco, with loans at higher levels than in 1975 to reflect increases in the index of prices paid by farmers, including wage rates, interest and taxes. Under the proposed program, loans will be made as in the past to associations under contract to Commodity Credit Corporation.

The proposed 1976-crop loan rates per pound and the comparable 1975 rates for kinds produced in North Carolina are as follows: flue-cured, 106.0 and 93.2 cents; burley, 109.3 and 96.1 cents.

Associations to which loans are made will be authorized to withhold one cent per pound from the advances to producers to help defray association administrative expenses.

U. S. RETAIL PORK PRICES SHOW LARGE INCREASE

Retail pork prices in 1975 were 130 percent higher than in 1960 and 88 percent higher than 1970. This was the second highest increase among selected food commodities with vegetable oils being up nearly 132 percent. Also more than doubling in retail price since 1960 were fresh market fruits and vegetables and cereal and bakery products. The latter category has increased 90 percent just since 1970. Eggs appear to be the best bargain for consumers, being up only 41 percent from 1960 retail prices but 30 percent of this increase has been since 1970.

Pork consumption is correspondingly low in comparison to other commodities being down over 16 percent from the 1960 level. Interestingly, pork consumption in 1975 was down 19 percent from the 1974 level corresponding to a 33 percent increase in retail prices during the same year. Egg consumption was down more than any other commodity while consumption of vegetable oils showed the largest increase. Consumption of eggs has steadily decreased since 1970 and as of 1975 was nearly 19 percent below the 1960 level. Vegetable oils are up 44 percent over amounts consumed in 1960 but are at the same level as in 1970. Consumption of poultry was up 41 percent corresponding to a moderately small increase of 49 percent in retail price. Other commodities showing increases in consumption were beef and veal and processed fruits and vegetables.

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APRIL PRICE INDEX DROPS

The ''All Farm Products'' index of prices received by Tar Heel farmers at local markets during April is 170 (1967 = 100), down 1 point from both March 1976 and April 1975.

The April ''All Crops'' index, at 163, is unchanged from March. However, the cotton index gained 11 points to 229. Commercial vegetables increased 2 points. Oil bearing crops and grains dropped 1 point and 2 points, respectively.

The ''Livestock and Livestock Products'' index declined 2 points from March. Even though meat animals moved up 7 points to 217, a drop of 7 points in poultry and 3 points in dairy were enough to lower the overall index.

(See Table, Page 2)

STATE'S EGG PRODUCTION DOWN IN MARCH

Egg production on North Carolina farms during March was estimated at 240 million, down 2 percent from March 1975. The number of layers on hand during the month was 11,800,000 compared to 12,200,000 a year earlier. Eggs laid per 100 layers, at 2,031, was 1 percent above March 1975 and a record high for March.

The Nation's laying flocks produced 5.6 billion eggs during March, slightly above March 1975. The number of layers during March was 1 percent fewer than a year earlier but average rate of lay was up 1 percent.

(See Table, Page 4)

HATCHERY PRODUCTION HIGHER

North Carolina's commercial hatcheries produced 31,345,000 chicks during March 1976, up 11 percent from March 1975.

For the United States, the March hatch was up 11 percent from last year to 358,210,000 chicks. Eggs in incubators on April 1, 1976 throughout the Nation were up 11 percent. In the South Atlantic States, they were up 13 percent.

(See Table, Page 4)

NORTH CAROLINA GRAIN STOCKS UP 4 PERCENT

Total grain stocks, excluding rye, in all storage positions on April 1, 1976 in North Carolina were up 4 percent from the comparable date last year. Declines in corn, wheat, oats, sorghum grain, and barley were more than offset by a large increase in soybean stocks.

Corn stored in all positions totaled 36.9 million bushels -- down 2 percent from 1975. On-farm holdings totaled 23.7 million bushels, down 15 percent, while stocks off farms totaled 13.2 million bushels, up 34 percent.

Soybean stocks in storage at 12.9 million bushels were up 34 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks showed the largest increase, 89 percent, while on-farm stocks were up only 7 percent. Disappearance during the quarter ending April 1 was 24 percent below the same quarter last year.

Wheat stocks at 2.0 million bushels were down 4 percent. Oats were down 19 percent to 995,000 bushels. Stocks of sorghum grain were down 15 percent. Off-farm stocks increased while on-farm

(See Grain Stocks, back page)

CROP PRICES LOWER
LIVESTOCK AND FEED VARY

Average prices received for crops by North Carolina farmers at local markets about mid-April were mostly lower than a month earlier. (See table, page 3.) Corn was down 2 cents per bushel to $2.62 and soybeans were down 2 cents per bushel to $4.60. Only cotton was up, gaining 3 cents to 56 cents per pound.

Prices received for livestock varied. Hogs, at $47.20 per hundredweight, were above March by $1.10. Beef cattle were up $2.00 per hundredweight and veal calves up $1.60.

Feed prices paid by the State's farmers during April were somewhat erratic. (See table, page 3.) Mixed dairy feed was up from the previous month. Fourteen percent protein feed showed the largest jump--$14 per ton. Chick starter decreased $2.00 per ton to $157.00 while broiler grower increased $3.00 to $177.00. Of the high protein feeds, 41 percent cottonseed meal averaged $9.60 per hundredweight, off 10 cents. Soybean meal (44 percent) was up 20 cents per hundredweight to $9.50.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARM PRICES INDEX NUMBERS

INDEX (1967 = 100)	April 15 1973	April 15 1974	April 15 1975	March 15 1976	April 15 1976
NORTH CAROLINA					
Prices Received: All Farm Products	149	3/ 156	3/ 171	171	170
All Crops	3/ 137	3/ 152	3/ 173	163	163
Tobacco	130	134	161	152	152
Cotton	3/ 143	266	168	218	229
Oil Bearing	187	184	199	175	174
Grains	121	204	210	196	194
Commercial Vegetables	132	3/ 186	188	181	183
Fruits	3/ 122	3/ 140	3/ 193	193	193
Livestock and Livestock Products	169	162	169	185	183
Meat Animals	186	3/ 171	176	210	217
Poultry	177	158	168	179	172
Dairy	123	3/ 158	161	167	164
UNITED STATES					
Prices Received, All Farm Products	3/ 158	183	170	184	188
Prices Paid, Commodities & Services 1/	3/ 144	3/ 169	182	194	194
Parity Ratio 2/	3/ 113	112	93	95	97

1/ Including interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid. 3/ Revised.

U. S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP 4 POINTS
PRICES PAID INDEX UNCHANGED

The Index of Prices Received by Farmers increased 4 points (2 percent) to 188 percent of its January-December 1967 average during the month ended April 15, 1976. Contributing most to the increase since mid-March were higher prices for meat animals. Lower prices for milk, wheat, lettuce, and corn were partially offsetting. The index was 18 points (11 percent) above a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates for April 15 was 194, unchanged from a month earlier. Lower prices for fertilizer, seeds, and feed offset higher prices for most other production and family living items. The index was 12 points (7 percent) higher than a year earlier.

COMMODITY PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		Apr. 15 1975	Mar. 15 1976	Apr. 15 1976*	Apr. 15 1975	Mar. 15 1976	Apr. 15 1976*
		Dollars					
Tobacco	Lb.	-	-	-	1.010	.992	1.095
Corn	Bu.	2.85	2.64	2.62	2.68	2.50	2.46
Wheat	Bu.	3.18	3.20	3.09	3.69	3.65	3.50
Oats	Bu.	1.59	1.56	1.55	1.51	1.46	1.44
Barley	Bu.	1.96	1.98	1.93	2.72	2.34	2.31
Rye	Bu.	3.00	-	2.64	2.32	2.32	2.33
Sorghum Grains	Cwt.	4.61	4.26	4.17	4.15	4.13	4.13
Soybeans	Bu.	5.71	4.62	4.60	5.61	4.46	4.52
Peanuts	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cotton	Lb.	.410	.533	.560	.322	.504	.502
Cottonseed	Ton	-	-	-	-	88.50	-
Wool	Lb.	-	-	-	.391	.528	.678
Hogs	Cwt.	39.30	46.10	47.20	39.30	45.50	47.00
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	23.00	28.60	30.60	31.80	33.60	37.90
Veal Calves	Cwt.	28.70	38.90	40.50	26.80	35.30	38.00
Milk Cows	Hd.	300.00	325.00	325.00	396.00	471.00	477.00
Com' l. Broilers	Lb.	.230	.250	.230	.234	.244	.237
Turkeys	Lb.	.330	.350	.350	.287	.325	.316
Eggs 1/	Doz.	.586	.616	.620	.474	.541	.534
Milk, Whlse	Cwt.	10.30	10.70	10.50	8.05	9.72	9.48
Potatoes	Cwt.	-	-	-	3.25	4.95	5.23
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt.	9.50	9.20	9.80	10.70	10.30	10.70
Apples, Com' l.	Lb.	-	.087	-	.110	.091	.100
Lespedeza Seed	Cwt.	46.60	46.00	46.00	40.10	38.90	36.60
Hay, All	Ton	56.50	51.00	55.00	52.40	54.10	54.10
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	62.00	55.00	60.00	54.90	58.20	56.90
Other	Ton	56.50	51.00	55.00	46.10	46.10	44.90

*1/ Average of all eggs sold by farmers including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail by farmers. * Preliminary.*

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

TYPE OF FEED	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	April 15 1975	March 15 1976	April 15 1976	April 15 1975	March 15 1976	April 15 1976
	Per Ton - Dollars					
Mixed Dairy Feed						
14% Protein	132.00	133.00	147.00	131.00	134.00	133.00
16% Protein	135.00	134.00	135.00	134.00	136.00	135.00
32% Protein	166.00	164.00	166.00	171.00	174.00	173.00
Poultry Feeds						
Chick Starter	162.00	159.00	157.00	164.00	162.00	161.00
Broiler Grower	177.00	174.00	177.00	164.00	160.00	159.00
Laying Feed 1/	149.00	148.00	146.00	146.00	145.00	144.00
Turkey Grower 1/	163.00	165.00	165.00	165.00	165.00	162.00
	Per 100 Lbs. - Dollars					
Grain By-Products						
Bran	7.70	7.40	7.50	7.26	7.38	7.35
Middlings	7.40	7.20	7.40	7.10	7.26	7.19
Corn Meal	7.40	6.90	6.80	7.00	6.58	6.57
High Protein Feeds						
Cottonseed Meal 41%	9.40	9.70	9.60	8.67	9.47	9.48
Soybean Meal 44%	9.10	9.30	9.50	8.64	8.86	8.84

1/ Complete ration feeds which are fed without further mixing or supplementations.

CHICKS HATCHED -- MARCH

STATE	BROILER-TYPE		EGG-TYPE		ALL TYPES	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands					
North Carolina	27,559	30,695	573	650	28,132	31,345
South Carolina	1,884	2,364	1,147	1,048	3,031	3,412
Georgia	39,638	42,622	3,627	5,599	43,265	48,221
Florida	6,569	7,979	3,683	3,827	10,252	11,806
Delaware	12,582	14,504	1/	1/	12,582	14,504
Maryland	18,109	19,063	1/	1/	18,109	19,063
Virginia	7,498	8,300	838	708	8,336	9,008
UNITED STATES	278,141	309,125	45,372	49,085	323,513	358,210

1/ *Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations.*

NUMBER OF LAYERS AND EGG PRODUCTION -- MARCH

STATE	LAYERS ON HAND		EGGS PER 100 LAYERS		TOTAL EGGS PRODUCED	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands		*Number*		*Millions*	
North Carolina	12,200	11,800	2,009	2,031	245	240
Virginia	3,176	3,277	1,969	1,984	63	65
South Carolina	5,695	5,950	2,061	2,031	117	121
Georgia	23,250	22,737	1,916	2,071	445	471
Florida	11,754	11,900	1,981	2,031	233	242
UNITED STATES	279,600	277,230	1,972	2,004	5,514	5,557

POULT HATCH INCREASES

The commercial hatch of turkey poults in the U. S. during March, at 18.5 million, was 15 percent above a year ago. The hatch of heavy breeds was up 13 percent from the same month last year to 16.6 million poults and light breed poults hatched were up 36 percent to 1.9 million.

The number of turkey eggs in incubators on April 1, 1976, at 26.4 million, was 4 percent above last year. Eggs for heavy breed turkeys were up 3 percent from last year and light breeds were up 19 percent.

POULTS HATCHED -- MARCH

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION (U. S.)	HEAVY BREEDS 1/		LIGHT BREEDS 2/		ALL BREEDS	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands					
North Atlantic	319	241	56	50	375	291
East North Central	1,957	2,224	80	198	2,037	2,422
West North Central	5,153	6,293	820	1,054	5,973	7,347
South Atlantic	1,917	2,369	323	465	2,240	2,834
South Central	1,824	1,846	0	0	1,824	1,846
West	3,549	3,593	127	142	3,676	3,735
UNITED STATES	14,719	16,566	1,406	1,909	16,125	18,475

1/ *Birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is 12 pounds or over.*
2/ *Birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is less than 12 pounds.*

MARCH LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER HIGHER

Commercial slaughter of livestock in the Tar Heel State during March totaled 54,169,000 pounds live weight, up 20 percent from March 1975. The number of head slaughtered was 181,300. This was 14 percent above the 158,900 head slaughtered in March last year.

Cattle slaughter increased 38 percent to 17,745,000 pounds live weight. Veal production at 199,000 pounds was up 42 percent. Hog slaughter was up 13 percent to 36,225,000 pounds live weight. No sheep and lamb slaughter was reported for March.

Commercial production of red meat in the United States totaled 3.5 billion pounds in March, 19 percent above a year ago, and 13 percent above March 1974. Commercial meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER 1/

SPECIES	MARCH				JANUARY THROUGH MARCH			
	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thous. Head		*Thous. Lbs.*		*Thous. Head*		*Thous. Lbs.*	
				NORTH CAROLINA				
Cattle	14.3	19.5	12,841	17,745	46.7	60.7	41,036	54,782
Calves	.5	.8	140	199	1.4	2.4	357	549
Sheep & Lambs	.1	-	7	-	.1	.1	7	10
Hogs	144.0	161.0	32,112	36,225	436.0	444.0	98,146	101,058
TOTAL	158.9	181.3	45,100	54,169	484.2	507.2	139,546	156,399
	Million Head		*Million Lbs.*		*Million Head*		*Million Lbs.*	
				UNITED STATES				
Cattle	3.1	3.8	3,207	3,899	9.7	10.9	9,947	11,066
Calves	.4	.5	101	125	1.1	1.4	294	365
Sheep & Lambs	.7	.6	71	65	1.9	1.7	205	190
Hogs	6.1	6.6	1,435	1,555	18.8	17.4	4,455	4,148
TOTAL	10.3	11.5	4,814	5,644	31.5	31.4	14,901	15,769

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

FARM-RETAIL PRICE SPREAD NARROWS

The farm-retail spread (the charge for assembling, processing, transporting, and distributing a market basket of foods) decreased 0.8 percent from February to March. Spreads also decreased in February after increasing sharply last fall. Decreases in March were greatest for poultry, fresh vegetables, and fats and oils products. Spreads increased for meats and eggs, but changed little for most other foods. The farm-retail spread in March averaged 2.9 percent wider than in March 1975.

Returns to farmers (farm value of quantities equivalent to retail units) for market basket foods decreased 1.8 percent from February to March. Decreases were sharpest for beef cattle, milk, and eggs. Partially offsetting were significant increases for fresh fruits and vegetables and poultry, while returns for other products changed relatively little. In March, the farm values of the market basket averaged 5.0 percent higher than a year earlier. The farmer's share of a dollar spent in retail food stores was 40.0 cents in March compared with 40.2 cents in February and 39.5 cents in March 1975.

POULTRY INCOME HIGHER

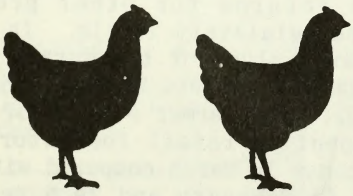
Gross farm income from poultry and poultry products in North Carolina during the marketing year ending December 1, 1975 totaled $537 million, 9 percent over the $494 million received in 1974.

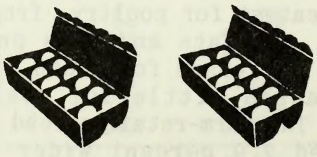
Poultrymen raised 7 percent fewer chickens in 1975, but gross income from chickens was up 23 percent due to an increase in price of 6 cents per pound. Egg prices averaged 2 cents per dozen below 1974, consequently gross income declined 10 percent to $145 million. Producers income from broilers rose 17 percent to $284 million while income from turkeys was up 21 percent to $90 million.

NORTH CAROLINA POULTRY PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND INCOME, 1974-1975

ITEMS	1974	1975	PERCENT CHANGE FROM 1974
EGGS:			
Number of layers (thous.)	13,011	11,954	- 8.1
Eggs per layer (number) 1/	233	234	.4
Eggs produced (million)	3,037	2,802	- 7.7
Eggs sold (million)	3,014	2,781	- 7.7
Price per dozen (cents)	64.0	62.3	- 2.7
Cash Receipts (thous. dollars)	160,747	144,380	- 10.2
Gross Income (thous. dollars)	161,974	145,470	- 10.2
CHICKENS: 2/			
Number raised (thousands)	15,000	14,000	- 6.7
Number sold (thousands)	13,100	11,500	- 12.2
Pounds sold (thousands)	91,700	80,500	- 12.2
Price per pound (cents)	15.0	20.9	39.3
Cash Receipts (thous. dollars)	13,755	16,825	22.3
Gross Income (thous. dollars)	14,430	17,766	23.1
COMMERCIAL BROILERS:			
Number produced (thousands)	286,558	283,986	- .9
Pounds produced (thousands)	1,146,232	1,107,545	- 3.4
Price per pound (cents)	21.2	25.6	20.8
Gross Income (thous. dollars)	243,001	283,532	16.7
EGGS, CHICKENS AND BROILERS:			
Cash receipts (thous. dollars)	417,503	444,737	6.5
Gross Income (thous. dollars)	419,405	446,768	6.5
TURKEYS:			
Number raised - total (thous.)	14,944	14,400	- 3.6
Heavy breeds (thousands)	3/	3/	-
Light breeds (thousands)	3/	3/	-
Pounds produced (thousands)	260,026	241,920	- 7.0
Price per pound (cents)	28.6	37.2	30.1
Gross Income (thous. dollars)	74,367	89,994	21.0
EGGS, CHICKENS, BROILERS AND TURKEYS:			
Gross Income (thous. dollars)	493,772	536,762	8.7

1/ Average number laid during year. 2/ Does not include commercial broilers.
3/ Breakdown by breeds combined to avoid disclosing individual operations.





LIVESTOCK INCOME REBOUNDS

Estimated cash income received by North Carolina farmers from the sale of meat animals in 1975 totaled $292 million, up 8 percent from 1974. This increase occurred despite a 9 percent drop in the number of head marketed. The main contributor to the increase was a 33 percent jump in the average price received for hogs.

Receipts from hogs were $236 million, up 16 percent from 1974, while receipts from cattle and calves were down 16 percent and sheep and lambs down 3 percent.

Calves born in the State during 1975, at 510,000, increased 2 percent from the previous year, but pigs saved, at 2,669,000, showed an 8 percent decrease.

NORTH CAROLINA LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND INCOME, 1974-1975

ITEMS		1974	1975	PERCENT CHANGE FROM 1974
CATTLE AND CALVES:				
Calves born	No.	500,000	510,000	2.0
Inshipments	No.	8,000	8,000	-
Marketings 2/:				
Cattle	No.	191,000	237,000	24.1
Calves	No.	194,000	187,000	- 3.6
Price per hundredweight:				
Cattle	Dols.	30.30	23.00	- 24.1
Calves	Dols.	36.30	27.40	- 24.5
Cash Receipts 1/	Dols.	66,840,000	56,123,000	- 16.0
Gross Income	Dols.	71,790,000	61,550,000	- 14.3
HOGS:				
Pigs saved	No.	2,901,000	2,669,000	- 8.0
Inshipments	No.	59,000	69,000	17.0
Marketings 2/	No.	2,645,000	2,343,000	- 11.4
Price per hundredweight	Dols.	35.00	46.40	32.6
Cash Receipts 1/	Dols.	204,109,000	235,702,000	15.5
Gross Income	Dols.	223,765,000	262,575,000	17.3
SHEEP AND LAMBS:				
Lambs saved	No.	9,000	8,000	- 11.1
Inshipments	No.	-	-	-
Marketings 2/				
Sheep	No.	2,000	2,000	-
Lambs	No.	4,000	4,000	-
Price per hundredweight:				
Sheep	Dols.	12.50	12.00	- 4.0
Lambs	Dols.	34.50	34.00	- 1.4
Cash Receipts 1/	Dols.	139,000	135,000	- 2.9
Gross Income	Dols.	183,000	179,000	- 2.2
ALL MEAT ANIMALS:				
Cash Receipts 1/	Dols.	271,088,000	291,960,000	7.7
Gross Income	Dols.	295,738,000	324,304,000	9.7
WOOL:				
Sheep Shorn	No.	12,000	11,000	- 8.3
Weight per fleece	Lbs.	6.5	6.3	- 3.1
Wool produced	Lbs.	78,000	69,000	- 11.5
Price per pound 3/	Dols.	.45	.40	- 11.1
Value 4/	Dols.	35,000	28,000	- 20.0

1/ Receipts from marketings and sale of farm slaughter. 2/ Excludes custom slaughter for use on farms where produced and interfarm sales within the State. 3/ Monthly price weighted by monthly sales of wool. 4/ Production multiplied by annual average price.

GRAIN STOCKS *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

holdings decreased. Barley stocks at 472,000 bushels were down about 30 percent from April 1, 1975.

U. S. FEED GRAIN, SOYBEAN AND WHEAT STOCKS SHARPLY HIGHER

April 1 stocks of all wheat in the U. S., at 25.5 million metric tons, were 42 percent above a year earlier. Stocks of the four feed grains (corn, oats, barley, and sorghum) totaled 86.4 million metric tons, 25 percent above April 1, 1975 holdings. Increases from a year earlier for individual feed grains were 37 percent for barley, 27 percent for corn and 19 percent for sorghum. Oats declined 2 percent.

Soybean stocks in the Nation, at 23.4 million metric tons, were 31 percent above April 1, 1975.

STOCKS OF GRAINS--APRIL 1

CROP	OFF-FARM TOTAL April 1 1/		ON-FARM TOTAL April 1		TOTAL ALL POSITIONS April 1 2/	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousand Bushels					
NORTH CAROLINA						
Corn for grain	9,826	13,196	27,883	23,731	37,709	36,927
Soybeans	3,192	6,018	6,411	6,859	9,603	12,877
Wheat	1,388	1,589	693	419	2,081	2,008
Oats	198	230	1,036	765	1,234	995
Sorghum grain	380	470	749	490	1,129	960
Rye	*	0	16	4	*	4
Barley	157	40	524	432	681	472
UNITED STATES						
Corn for grain	704,911	912,337	1,509,416	1,899,413	2,214,327	2,811,750
Soybeans	323,317	456,084	331,241	404,478	654,558	860,562
All Wheat	387,982	593,900	273,918	343,810	661,900	937,710
Oats	89,865	68,418	235,858	251,899	325,723	320,317
Sorghum grain	145,278	164,184	63,439	83,668	208,717	247,852
Rye	4,080	2,830	4,118	3,153	8,198	5,983
Barley	71,227	85,555	62,822	98,274	134,049	183,829

*1/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, processors, and CCC-owned grain at bin sites. 2/ Off-farm total plus farm stocks. *Unpublished to avoid disclosing individual operations.*

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NORTH CAROLINA Farm Report

Federal - State
Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

No. 705 May 17, 1976

DRIEST APRIL OF RECORD

The last two weeks of April continued dry causing further deterioration in crop conditions. Following one of the driest Aprils of record in many areas, some relief finally came the weekend of May 1-2 when most of the state received one half to one inch of rain. Light showers continued intermittently during the first week of May.

The moisture enhanced crop conditions in most cases but more was needed in many areas. As of May 8, soil moisture over the state averaged 14 percent very short, 47 percent short and 39 percent adequate. The Piedmont generally had the highest soil moisture while the Mountains appeared to be the driest.

The main farm activities during the three-week period of April 18-May 8 were land preparation and planting. Most planting was ahead of schedule with sweet potatoes lagging. Percent

(See APRIL, Page 4)

DRY WEATHER REDUCES WHEAT CROP

The 1976 winter wheat crop in North Carolina will be harvested from an estimated 275,000 acres--down 8 percent from the 1975 figure. Yields are also expected to be lower as the crop has been hurt by dry weather. The 1976 yield is expected to average 24 bushels per acre compared with 36 in 1974 and 31 last year. Indicated production is off 29 percent to 6.6 million bushels.

U. S. CROP SMALLER

Winter wheat production in the U. S. is forecast at 1,459 million bushels--12 percent lower than last year's record crop but 5 percent higher than 1974's output. Acres to be harvested for grain are estimated at 47.3 million, an 8 percent reduction from last year. Yield, at 30.8 bushels per acre, is off 1.2 bushels from the 1975 average but 1.2 bushels above that of 1974.

MORE IRISH POTATOES EXPECTED

Spring Irish potato production in N. C. is expected to total 2.0 million cwt. this year. This is 5 percent above the 1975 crop but 6 percent below 1974's. Harvested acreage, at 13,000, is expected to be up 1,000 acres but average yields are down 5 cwt. per acre at 155.

U. S. PRODUCTION UP

U. S. production of spring Irish potatoes is set at 23.9 million cwt.--up 19 percent from the 1975 crop. Harvested acres at 99,400 and yields at 240 cwt. are also expected to be higher.

PEACH CROP DAMAGED

The North Carolina peach crop has been damaged by several hard frosts this year. Two occurred in mid-March and one on April 10. The estimated production for 1976 is 15 million pounds, down 50 percent from last year and 25 percent from the 1974 crop.

Prospects appear much better for the nine Southern States as a whole and production is indicated at 566.5 million pounds--up 38 percent from 1975 and 66 percent from 1974. All Southern States except North Carolina are forecasting increased production.

(See Table, Page 6.)

1975 COTTON ACREAGE HITS RECORD LOW

Farmers in North Carolina harvested cotton from 53,000 of the 56,000 acres planted in 1975, both figures record lows. Production at 46,000 bales was second only to the 43,000 in 1967 as the smallest ever. Yield per harvested acre averaged 412 pounds, down over 6 percent from 1974.

The total value of cotton lint is estimated at $11.3 million -- less than half that of the 1974 crop. Average price received was up 10 cents to 51.5 cents per pound.

Cottonseed production is estimated at 15,000 tons compared with 44,000 for 1974. Average price per ton was $86 -- down $45 from 1974. Value of production was off 78 percent at 1.3 million.

PRODUCTION DOWN IN U. S.

Cotton production in the U. S. in 1975 totaled 8.3 million bales, 28 percent below 1974 and 36 percent below 1973. The smaller crop resulted from a reduction of 31 percent in acreage planted while yield improved 3 percent over the 1974 crop. The crop was generally late and was plagued by unfavorable weather conditions and heavy insect infestations. Fall harvesting conditions were favorable but because of the lateness of the crop, many large bolls failed to reach maturity.

COTTON--ACREAGE, YIELD, PRODUCTION AND VALUE, 1974 AND 1975

ITEM	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES 1/	
		1974	1975	1974	1975
Acres Planted.....	Thousands	158	56	13,699	9,493
Acres Harvested.....	Thousands	145	53	12,567	8,796
Average Lint Yield Per Harvested Acre.....	Pounds	440	412	441	453
Bales Produced 2/.....	Thousands	133	46	11,540	8,302
Cottonseed produced.....	Thous. Tons	44	15	4,510	3,030
Average Price Received Per Pound of Lint.....	Cents	41.9	51.5	42.9	50.1
Total Value of Lint Production.....	Thous. Dols.	26,732	11,257	2,374,064	1,996,630
Average Price Per Ton of Cottonseed.....	Dollars	131.00	86.00	135.50	97.50
Total Value of Cottonseed Production.	Thous. Dols.	5,764	1,290	611,217	295,288
Total Value of Lint and Cottonseed.....	Thous. Dols.	32,496	12,547	2,985,281	2,291,918
Cottonseed Disposition: Sales to Oil Mills....	Thous. Tons	39	14	4,291	2,811
Other Disposition 3/..	Thous. Tons	5	1	219	219

1/ U. S. data include upland and American-Pima cotton. 2/ 480-pound net weight bales. 3/ Includes planting seed, exports, inter-farm sales, shrinkage, losses and other uses.

PEANUT STOCKS ABOVE LAST YEAR

Commercial peanut stocks in the U. S. on March 31, 1976, totaled 2,137 million pounds of equivalent farmers' stock, 11 percent more than a year ago. Actual farmers' stock accounted for 1,212 million pounds while shelled peanuts and roasting stock totaled 875 and 50 million pounds, respectively. Commodity Credit Corporation holdings on March 31 were 117 million pounds, well below the 776 million pounds on hand a year earlier. The current CCC total does not include 897 million pounds of 1975 crop peanuts contracted for crushing since January.

Shelled peanut stocks on March 31 totaled nearly 658 million pounds, consisting of over 566 million pounds of edible grades and 91 million pounds of oil stock. By types, edible grades consisted of 120 million pounds of Virginias, 298 million pounds of Runners, and 149 million pounds of Spanish. There were no shelled edible grade peanuts in cold storage pending export on March 31.

(See PEANUTS, Page 3)

PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND VALUE OF 1974-75 CROPS, NORTH CAROLINA

CROPS	Unit	Production	Farm Disposition			Season's Average Price Received By Farmers	Value Of	
			Used On Farms Where Grown		Sold		Production	Sales
			For Seed	Fed To Livestock				
		Thousands				*Dollars*	*Thousand Dollars*	
1974 1/								
Corn for grain.....	Bu.	116,180	3/	30,207	85,973	3.18	369,452	273,394
Wheat.....	Bu.	9,900	352	1,782	7,766	3.29	32,571	25,550
Oats.....	Bu.	4,505	3/	2,838	1,667	1.44	6,487	2,400
Barley.....	Bu.	2,760	3/	1,766	994	1.87	5,161	1,859
Rye.....	Bu.	400	3/	136	264	2.85	1,140	752
Sorghum Grain.....	Bu.	4,160	3/	1,082	3,078	2.74	11,398	8,434
Soybeans for beans.	Bu.	30,530	525	122	29,883	6.81	207,909	203,503
Peanuts for nuts...	Lb.	384,290	6,471	4/ 482	377,337	.180	69,172	67,921
Hay, All.....	Ton	530	-	461	69	48.50	25,705	3,347
Apples.....	Lb.	295,000	-	-	295,000	.0620	18,290	18,290
Peaches.....	Lb.	20,000	-	-	20,000	.1320	2,640	2,640
Grapes.....	Ton	3.1	-	-	3.1	306.00	949	949
1975 2/								
Corn for grain.....	Bu.	103,180	3/	33,018	70,162	2.65	273,427	185,929
Wheat.....	Bu.	9,300	354	1,767	7,179	2.80	26,040	20,101
Oats.....	Bu.	4,250	3/	2,677	1,573	1.40	5,950	2,202
Barley.....	Bu.	2,700	3/	1,782	918	1.80	4,860	1,652
Rye.....	Bu.	360	3/	133	227	2.30	828	522
Sorghum Grain.....	Bu.	4,080	3/	1,265	2,815	2.38	9,710	6,700
Soybeans for beans.	Bu.	32,660	490	131	32,039	4.60	150,236	147,379
Peanuts for nuts...	Lb.	373,725	6,720	4/ 467	366,538	.200	74,745	73,308
Hay, All.....	Ton	533	-	464	69	53.50	28,516	3,692
Apples.....	Lb.	275,000	-	-	275,000	.0680	18,700	18,700
Peaches.....	Lb.	30,000	-	-	30,000	.1750	5,250	5,250
Grapes.....	Ton	3.8	-	-	3.8	231.00	882	882

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Combined with Fed to Livestock 4/ Includes fed, lost and used in farm household.

PEANUTS *(Cont'd. From Page 2)*

A year earlier 6 million pounds were in cold storage pending export.

March millings totaled 348 million pounds, 30 percent higher than a year ago. Millings by types consisted of 65 million pounds of Virginias, 241 million pounds of Runners, and 42 million pounds of Spanish during the month.

Shelled peanuts utilized by commercial processors in the manufacture of primary edible products totaled 110 million pounds, a 13 percent increase over March a year ago. Crushings for oil, cake, and meal totaled 96 million pounds during the month, more than triple the 30 million pounds crushed a year earlier. Crushings for the season to date (August 75 - March 76) are more than double crushings for the same period last year.

APRIL *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

of crops planted as of May 8 and historic comparisons are as follows:

	1976	1975	5-Yr. Ave.
Flue-cured Tobacco	67	55	50
Corn	86	79	72
Soybeans	11	9	14
Peanuts	39	29	38
Cotton	80	68	69
Sweet Potatoes	10	15	-
Sorghum	30	14	-

As of May 8, small grains were generally in poor to mostly fair conditions with wheat showing very little response to the rains. Corn was mostly fair to good with poor stands in some areas affected by dry soils. Tobacco beds showed improvement and were rated mostly fair to good. Plant shortages occurred in many areas because of resetting stands damaged by drought and frost. Tobacco in fields was in mostly fair condition. Irish potatoes were mostly fair to good. Only about half of a peach crop is expected this year. Pastures improved and were poor to mostly fair in early May.

TOBACCO PRODUCTION AND VALUE RISE

Total production of flue-cured tobacco in North Carolina in 1975 was up 21 percent at 934 million pounds. All three types showed gains. The average price per pound at 99.8 cents was off nearly 6 percent, but the total value at $932 million gained 15 percent.

Burley production in the state was also higher at 23 million pounds compared with 19 million in 1974. Average prices were 6 percent lower but total value of production was $23.7 million -- up 16 percent.

U. S. flue-cured production is placed at 1,415 million pounds, up 14 percent from the 1974 poundage of 1,241 million pounds. The higher production is the result of a 16 percent increase in harvested acreage. The 1975 crop was harvested from 717,200 acres and yielded 1,973 pounds per acre compared with 2,014 the previous year.

Burley production in the U. S. at 639.1 million pounds, was 4 percent larger than the 1974 output of 612.6 million pounds. (See Table, Page 5.)

MILK COWS DOWN, PRODUCTION UP

Milk production in North Carolina during April totaled an estimated 135 million pounds, 2 percent above April 1975 and 7 percent above April 1974. Indicated milk cows on farms, at 152,000, were down 1,000 from April a year earlier. Milk per cow totaled about 890 pounds in April, 60 pounds higher than April 1975 and a record for the month.

NATIONAL PRODUCTION UP

Milk cows on U. S. farms in April decreased 1 percent from the 1975 level and were estimated at 11.1 million head. Milk produced per cow was 944 pounds, up 4 percent. Total milk production at 10.45 billion pounds was up 3 percent from both the 1974 and 1975 figures.

MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION--APRIL

STATE	MILK COWS ON FARMS 1/			MILK PER COW 2/			MILK PRODUCTION 2/			
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1976 As % Of 1975
	Thousands			*Pounds*			*Million Pounds*			*Percent*
N. C.	152	153	152	830	870	890	126	133	135	102
Md.	134	140	141	940	970	970	126	136	137	101
Va.	159	158	159	900	940	920	143	149	146	98
Ga.	131	130	128	810	800	840	106	104	108	104
Fla.	201	198	197	835	875	895	168	173	176	102
U. S.	11,229	11,186	11,072	902	905	944	10,124	10,121	10,450	103

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

TOBACCO--ACREAGE, YIELD, PRODUCTION AND VALUE, BY TYPES, 1974 AND 1975

Producing State	Type	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production		Avg. Price Per Lb. Received By Farmers		Value Of Production	
		1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
		Acres		*Pounds*		*Thousand Pounds*		*Cents*		*Thousand Dollars*	
Flue-Cured:											
North Carolina.....	11	152,000	179,000	1,790	1,710	272,080	306,090	105.7	97.4	287,589	298,132
North Carolina.....	12	188,000	229,000	2,110	2,155	396,680	493,495	106.0	101.2	420,481	499,417
North Carolina.....	13	50,000	62,000	2,030	2,165	101,500	134,230	103.8	100.0	105,357	134,230
TOTAL N. C. FLUE-CURED.....	11-13	390,000	470,000	1,975	1,987	770,260	933,815	105.6	99.8	813,427	931,779
Virginia.....	11	62,000	68,000	1,805	1,650	111,910	112,200	106.7	99.0	119,408	111,078
South Carolina.....	13	80,000	90,000	2,150	2,100	172,000	189,000	103.9	99.5	178,708	188,055
Georgia.....	14	72,000	75,000	2,235	2,010	160,920	150,750	103.0	101.0	165,748	152,258
Florida.....	14	11,700	13,500	2,145	2,080	25,097	28,080	101.0	97.5	25,348	27,378
Alabama.....	14	630	700	1,810	1,700	1,140	1,190	100.0	91.5	1,140	1,089
TOTAL ALL FLUE-CURED TYPES.	11-14	616,330	717,200	2,014	1,973	1,241,327	1,415,035	105.0	99.8	1,303,779	1,411,637
Burley:											
North Carolina.....	31	8,000	9,500	2,370	2,440	18,960	23,180	108.0	102.4	20,477	23,736
Kentucky.....	31	176,000	186,000	2,445	2,320	430,320	431,520	114.1	106.7	490,995	460,432
Tennessee.....	31	46,400	54,400	2,050	2,080	95,120	113,152	114.6	102.6	109,008	116,094
Virginia.....	31	10,200	10,800	2,240	2,250	22,848	24,300	112.0	103.7	25,590	25,199
West Virginia.....	31	1,750	1,750	1,670	1,780	2,923	3,115	106.6	102.5	3,116	3,193
TOTAL BURLEY 1/.....	31	260,750	282,150	2,350	2,265	612,649	639,056	113.7	105.5	696,590	674,448
NORTH CAROLINA, ALL TOBACCO	All	398,000	479,500	1,983	1,996	789,220	956,995	105.7	99.8	833,904	955,515
UNITED STATES, ALL TOBACCO.	All	962,620	1,086,350	2,067	2,011	1,989,728	2,184,237	108.6	102.6	2,159,875	2,240,726

1/ Ohio, Indiana and Missouri also included in total.

ESTIMATED PEACH PRODUCTION BY STATES

STATE	1974		1975		INDICATED MAY 1, 1976	
	Million Pounds	48 Pound Equivalents	Million Pound	48 Pound Equivalents	Million Pounds	48 Pound Equivalents
		Thousands		*Thousands*		*Thousands*
NORTH CAROLINA	20.0	417	30.0	625	15.0	313
South Carolina	215.0	4,479	210.0	4,375	245.0	5,104
Georgia.....	45.0	938	95.0	1,979	200.0	4,167
Alabama.....	9.0	188	7.0	146	15.0	313
Mississippi...	7.0	146	7.0	146	15.0	313
Arkansas.....	20.0	417	35.0	729	42.0	875
Louisiana.....	6.3	131	3.0	63	6.5	135
Oklahoma.....	.1	2	6.8	142	7.0	146
Texas.....	18.0	375	16.0	333	21.0	438
9 STATES.....	340.4	7,093	409.8	8,538	566.5	11,804

FERTILIZER USAGE DOWN

Total North Carolina fertilizer consumption during the year ended June 30, 1975 was 1,882,483 tons, down 8 percent. Of this total, mixed fertilizer accounted for 1,314,298 tons and direct-application materials 568,185 tons, down 8 and 9 percent, respectively.

Fertilizer consumption in the U. S. and Puerto Rico during the year ended June 30, 1975 is placed at 42.5 million tons, down 10 percent from the 47.1 million tons consumed during the 1973-74 fertilizer year and 2 percent less than the 1972-73 tonnage.

Primary nutrient content (nitrogen, N; phosphate, P_2O_5; and potash, K_2O) was 17.6 million tons, down 9 percent from a year earlier. Nitrogen consumption decreased 6 percent to 8.6 million tons; phosphate usage dropped 12 percent to 4.5 million tons; and potash, also at 4.5 million tons, was down 12 percent.

FERTILIZER CONSUMPTION, 1974 and 1975 1/

KIND (Specified)	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES	
	1974 2/	1975 3/	1974 2/	1975 3/
	Tons			
Mixtures: 3-9-9.....	170,951	171,108	380,463	369,083
3-9-18.....	135,007	106,770	377,443	368,786
5-10-10.....	228,084	165,957	634,559	500,052
8-8-8.....	84,365	66,234	288,530	190,705
10-10-10.....	211,619	209,184	1,207,741	1,155,311
10-20-20.....	62,115	61,582	412,438	360,500
All Mixtures 4/.....	1,425,146	1,314,298	24,067,356	20,652,586
Materials:				
Ammonium Nitrate.....	68,007	67,626	3,169,382	2,811,584
Anhydrous Ammonia.....	11,955	12,581	4,180,088	4,018,042
Sodium Nitrate.....	18,746	49,940	47,691	84,703
Superphosphates: 20% P_2O_5.	7,004	3,166	195,184	183,916
46% P_2O_5.	4,958	8,228	1,183,092	1,169,793
Muriate of Potash.....	7,421	8,995	3,266,936	3,003,961
Gypsum.....	142,139	57,622	1,896,528	1,631,092
All Materials 5/.....	627,059	568,185	23,026,660	21,855,444
ALL MIXTURES AND MATERIALS.	2,052,205	1,882,483	47,094,016	42,508,030

1/ Excludes liming materials. 2/ Year ending June 30, 1974. 3/ Year ending June 30, 1975. 4/ Total of grades above plus other mixed grades. 5/ Total of materials above plus other direct-application materials.

AVERAGE PRICES PAID PER TON BY FARMERS FOR SPECIFIED FERTILIZER MIXTURES AND MATERIALS

MIXTURES & MATERIALS	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	April 15 1975	October 15 1975	April 15 1976	April 15 1975	October 15 1975	April 15 1976
	Dollars					
3-9-9	130.00	130.00	120.00	129.00	127.00	119.00
3-9-18	110.00	105.00	100.00	108.00	102.00	96.20
4-8-12	145.00	140.00	125.00	133.00	124.00	115.00
4-12-12	110.00	105.00	105.00	111.00	103.00	93.30
5-10-10	110.00	105.00	98.00	114.00	106.00	98.90
8-8-8	105.00	105.00	99.00	110.00	105.00	98.00
10-10-10	130.00	125.00	115.00	134.00	122.00	113.00
10-20-20	180.00	175.00	160.00	186.00	171.00	157.00
Nitrate of Soda	200.00	195.00	150.00	198.00	191.00	154.00
Ammonium Nitrate	200.00	185.00	150.00	186.00	156.00	135.00
Anhydrous Ammonia	275.00	250.00	230.00	265.00	219.00	191.00
Urea, 45-46% N	265.00	245.00	210.00	244.00	203.00	166.00
Superphosphate: 20% P_2O_5	110.00	100.00	100.00	118.00	103.00	95.20
46% P_2O_5	190.00	180.00	160.00	214.00	179.00	158.00
Muriate of Potash, 60% K_2O	110.00	110.00	115.00	102.00	94.30	95.90
Agricultural Limestone*	16.00	16.00	15.50	9.03	8.88	8.84

* *Spread on fields.*

FERTILIZER COST LOWER

Prices paid around mid-April by Tar Heel farmers for fertilizer were generally lower than those paid a year earlier, with potash a notable exception. Two of the largest decreases occurred with nitrate of soda and ammonium nitrate, both dropped 25 percent from April 1975.

In the U. S. as a whole, the index of prices paid for fertilizer, at 193, was down 8 percent from the last survey in October 1975. Prices were lower for all fertilizer items except potash. Compared with last April, the index was down 19 percent.

FIELD SEED PRICES LOWER

The prices farmers paid for selected planting seeds this spring were generally lower than a year earlier. (See table below.) Hybrid corn seed prices in North Carolina were down nearly a tenth but for the United States they averaged about the same as in 1975. Soybean seeds were markedly lower in both the state and the nation. Cottonseed prices were up slightly in North Carolina but dropped noticeably on the average for the rest of the country.

AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY FARMERS FOR FIELD SEEDS

FIELD SEEDS	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES	
		April 15 1975	April 15 1976	April 15 1975	April 15 1976
Hybrid Corn	Bu.	45.00	41.00	36.50	36.50
Forage Sorghum	Cwt.	38.50	27.50	23.50	21.50
Grain Sorghum*	Cwt.	-	42.00	-	37.50
Spring Oats	Bu.	3.90	3.85	3.65	3.50
Soybeans	Bu.	10.50	8.20	10.50	7.40
Cottonseed	Cwt.	44.00	45.00	33.60	28.50
Irish Potatoes	Cwt.	7.70	9.60	5.30	7.40

* *Hybrids*

SURVEY MEASURES FERTILIZER USE

The table below shows the indicated use of fertilizer in 1975 on selected crops in North Carolina and the United States.

The data on the percentage of harvested acres fertilized, application rate of fertilizer nutrients, and time of application were obtained when farm operators were interviewed for objective yield data during surveys conducted in 1975 by the Statisticial Reporting Service, USDA. No attempt has been made to convert the data into total nutrients used or total acreage receiving fertilizer. The data should not be considered as official estimates of total fertilizer use.

INDICATED FERTILIZER USE ON SELECTED CROPS IN 1975 NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES 1/

CROPS	Acres For Harvest	Fields In Survey	ACREAGE RECEIVING--				RATE PER ACRE RECEIVING--			ACREAGE FERTILIZED 2/		
			Any Fertilizer	N	P_2O_5	K_2O	N	P_2O_5	K_2O	Only At Or Before Seeding	Only After Seeding	At, Before And After Seeding
	Thous.	*No.*	*Percent*				*Pounds*			*Percent*		
						NORTH CAROLINA						
Corn	1,540	132	100.0	100.0	99.2	99.2	140.2	56.3	77.1	22.7	1.5	75.8
Cotton	52	43	100.0	100.0	90.7	97.7	83.5	52.2	82.2	14.0	2.3	83.7
Soybeans	1,420	65	63.1	56.9	61.5	63.1	12.1	33.7	65.1	100.0	0.0	0.0
						UNITED STATES 3/						
Corn	62,065	2,478	94.3	93.9	86.0	81.6	104.9	57.7	67.2	67.8	3.9	28.3
Cotton	9,030	2,302	65.0	64.9	42.7	32.9	77.7	49.5	55.1	56.8	20.3	22.9
Soybeans	45,560	1,465	27.6	17.9	25.0	26.4	14.8	39.5	52.5	96.1	3.6	0.3
Wheat 4/	63,980	2,150	63.2	62.8	43.4	21.0	46.3	34.8	34.6	73.6	8.9	17.5

1/ Indications based upon sample data collected by Statisticial Reporting Service for Economic Research Service. 2/ Percentages apply to acres receiving fertilizer. 3/ Survey conducted in 19 states for corn, 14 for cotton, 14 for soybeans, and 17 for wheat. 4/ Data on wheat not available for North Carolina.

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MAY PRICE INDEX GAINS

The ''All Farm Products'' index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets during May is 172 (1967 = 100), up 2 points from April but down 1 point from May 1975.

The May ''All Crops'' index, at 165, is up 2 points from April. Almost all components of the index increased. Cotton at 242 rose 13 points. The only index to decline is that for commercial vegetables which lost a mere 2 points.

The ''Livestock and Livestock Products'' index rose 4 points from April. All components of the index were up, but poultry rose 5 points, more than either meat animals or dairy. (See Table, Page 2.)

APRIL EGG PRODUCTION UNCHANGED

Egg production on North Carolina farms during April 1976 is estimated at 229 million -- unchanged from April 1975. The number of hens and pullets of laying age on hand during the month averaged 11.60 million birds compared with 11.65 million a year earlier. Output per 100 layers averaged 1,974 eggs during the month -- a record high for April -- and compares with 1,965 eggs during April a year ago.

Laying flocks in the United States produced 5,325 million eggs during April, slightly above April 1974. Layers on hand during April averaged 273 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. The average rate of lay was up 2 percent from April 1975. (See Table, Page 6.)

MORE BROILERS, FEWER EGG TYPE CHICKS HATCHED

Commercial hatcheries in North Carolina hatched 31,442,000 broiler-type chicks in April 1976, up 19 percent from the same month a year ago. The number of egg-type chicks hatched was 8 percent below a year earlier.

Across the nation the April broiler-type chick hatch was up 12 percent. The number of broiler-type eggs in incubators in the U. S. on May 1, 1976 was also up 12 percent. The South Atlantic States were up 13 percent from May 1, 1975. (See Table, Page 6.)

LARGE SUPPLIES OF FARM PRODUCTS LIKELY IN 1976; FARM INCOME TO BE MAINTAINED

Increasing output of livestock products and prospects for large crops again this year highlight the agricultural outlook for 1976. However, accelerating growth in the general economy and rising consumer purchases are expanding the domestic demand for food and fiber. Moreover, foreign demand and exports of agricultural products are strong and promise to continue relatively high, although recovery in world crops would likely ease demand pressures on U. S. farm products in the 1976/77 marketing year.

The overall income position of farmers this year is not expected to change much from last year's levels. Expanding markets are bolstering returns despite larger supplies. A record flow of cash receipts from livestock products is underway for 1976.

(See Supplies, Page 7)

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP 3 POINTS PRICES PAID INDEX UNCHANGED

The Index of Prices Received by Farmers increased 3 points (1½ percent) to 192 percent of its January-December 1967 average during the month ended May 15, 1976. Contributing most to the increase since mid-April were higher prices for corn, cotton and soybeans. Lower prices for cattle and milk were partially offsetting. The index was 9 points (5 percent) above a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates for May 15 was 193, unchanged from the revised index for a month earlier. Prices for family living items were about the same as mid-April. Lower prices for feeder livestock and farm and motor supplies more than offset the higher prices for feed, autos and trucks, and fuels and energy. The index was 13 points (7 percent) above a year earlier.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARM PRICES INDEX NUMBERS

INDEX (1967 = 100)	May 15 1973	May 15 1974	May 15 1975	April 15 1976	May 15 1976
NORTH CAROLINA					
Prices Received: All Farm Products....	153	3/ 152	3/ 173	3/ 170	172
All Crops.....	3/144	3/ 152	3/ 171	163	165
Tobacco.....	130	135	161	152	152
Cotton.....	3/164	225	160	229	242
Oil Bearing.....	229	183	186	174	180
Grains.....	134	205	204	194	200
Commercial Vegetables.....	3/138	3/ 183	3/ 191	183	181
Fruits.....	3/120	3/ 139	197	193	196
Livestock and Livestock Products.....	168	152	176	3/ 182	186
Meat Animals.....	3/190	155	194	217	221
Poultry.....	172	149	172	172	177
Dairy.....	123	3/ 156	158	3/ 161	162
UNITED STATES					
Prices Received, All Farm Products.....	163	3/ 174	178	3/ 189	192
Prices Paid, Commodities & Services 1/.	3/147	3/ 169	3/ 183	3/ 193	193
Parity Ratio 2/.....	115	3/ 105	97	3/ 98	99

1/ Including Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid. 3/ Revised.

CROP, LIVESTOCK AND FEED PRICES MIXED

Average prices received for crops by Tar Heel farmers at local markets about mid-May were mixed compared to a month earlier. (See Table, Page 3.) Soybeans were up 28 cents to $4.88 per bushel, and corn increased 11 cents per bushel to $2.73. Cotton at 59 cents was up 3 cents per pound. Wheat dropped 11 cents from April to $2.98 per bushel.

Prices received for livestock were mostly higher. Hogs rose 90 cents per hundredweight to $48.10. Beef cattle were up 50 cents and veal calves up 10 cents per hundredweight.

Feed prices paid by the state's farmers during May varied. (See Table, Page 3.) Mixed dairy feed of 14 and 16 percent protein increased moderately from April, while 32 percent protein feed dropped $2.00 per ton. Laying feed was up $2.00 per ton to $148.00 and broiler grower decreased $4.00 per ton to $173.00. Of the grain by-products, bran was down 20 cents per hundredweight to $7.30. Corn meal at $6.80 per hundredweight was unchanged from April.

COMMODITY PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		May 15 1975	Apr. 15 1976	May 15 1976*	May 15 1975	Apr. 15 1976	May 15 1976*
		Dollars					
Tobacco	Lb.	-	-	-	.935	1.095	1.095
Corn	Bu.	2.78	2.62	2.73	2.66	2.46	2.61
Wheat	Bu.	2.99	3.09	2.98	3.47	3.50	3.43
Oats	Bu.	1.55	1.55	1.57	1.54	1.44	1.47
Barley	Bu.	1.93	1.93	1.87	2.75	2.31	2.41
Rye	Bu.	-	2.64	-	2.15	2.33	2.39
Sorghum Grains	Cwt.	4.52	4.17	4.16	4.21	4.13	4.14
Soybeans	Bu.	5.11	4.60	4.88	5.00	4.52	4.87
Peanuts	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cotton	Lb.	.390	.560	.590	.363	.502	.573
Cottonseed	Ton	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wool	Lb.	-	-	-	.476	.678	.695
Hogs	Cwt.	43.90	47.20	48.10	45.10	47.00	47.50
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	24.90	30.60	31.10	36.50	37.90	36.90
Veal Calves	Cwt.	29.70	40.50	40.60	29.50	38.00	38.80
Milk Cows	Hd.	295.00	325.00	325.00	408.00	477.00	487.00
Com'l. Broilers	Lb.	.240	.230	.245	.246	.237	.247
Turkeys	Lb.	.350	.350	.350	.308	.316	.320
Eggs 1/	Doz.	.582	.620	.607	.476	.534	.555
Milk, Whlse	Cwt.	10.10	10.30	10.40	7.98	9.37	9.33
Potatoes	Cwt.	-	-	-	3.69	5.23	5.26
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt.	9.50	9.80	9.30	11.60	10.70	10.60
Apples, Com'l	Lb.	-	-	-	.145	.100	.093
Lespedeza Seed	Cwt.	-	46.00	-	38.20	36.60	-
Hay, All	Ton	56.00	55.00	54.50	56.30	54.10	64.80
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	58.00	60.00	57.00	59.10	56.90	70.20
Other	Ton	56.00	55.00	54.50	46.80	44.90	48.00

*1/ Average of all eggs sold by farmers including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail by farmers. * Preliminary.*

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

TYPE OF FEED	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	May 15 1975	April 15 1976	May 15 1976	May 15 1975	April 15 1976	May 15 1976
	Per Ton - Dollars					
Mixed Dairy Feed						
14% Protein	135.00	2/135.00	137.00	131.00	133.00	133.00
16% Protein	138.00	135.00	138.00	132.00	135.00	137.00
32% Protein	163.00	166.00	164.00	169.00	173.00	177.00
Poultry Feeds						
Chick Starter	163.00	157.00	163.00	162.00	161.00	164.00
Broiler Grower	172.00	177.00	173.00	161.00	159.00	161.00
Laying Feed 1/	150.00	146.00	148.00	145.00	144.00	146.00
Turkey Grower 1/	163.00	165.00	169.00	164.00	162.00	165.00
	Per 100 Lbs. - Dollars					
Grain By-Products						
Bran	7.50	7.50	7.30	7.21	7.35	7.41
Middlings	7.30	7.40	7.20	7.01	7.19	7.24
Corn Meal	7.40	6.80	6.80	6.97	6.57	6.66
High Protein Feeds						
Cottonseed Meal 41%	9.00	9.60	9.50	8.71	9.48	9.60
Soybean Meal 44%	8.60	9.50	9.60	8.54	8.84	9.34

1/ Complete ration feeds which are fed without further mixing or supplementations.
2/ April 1976 price of $135.00 revised from $147.00 published earlier.

FIELD SEED SUMMARY

The table below presents U. S. totals for acres harvested, average yield of clean seed per acre and total production of major field seeds for 1973-75. Carryover, season average price and value of total production are shown for 1974-75.

Similar data plus disposition information are available for individual producing states and may be obtained from the Crop Reporting Service, Box 27767, Raleigh, N. C. 27611 or telephone 919-829-7293. Also available on an individual crop basis are imports, exports, total supply and total disappearance.

LESPEDEZA SEED

Lespedeza seed, the only field seed crop estimated in North Carolina, was on the rise in 1975 after reaching the lowest point in 48 years during 1974. Production increased to 450,000 pounds (clean basis), 7 percent above a year earlier.

The acres harvested, at 3,000, were unchanged from 1974. However, the average yield per acre increased 7 percent to 150 pounds.

U. S. FIELD SEEDS: Acreage, Yield, Production, Carryover, Season Average Price and Value Of Production

CROP	ACRES HARVESTED			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION (CLEAN SEED)		
	1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975
	Acres			*Pounds*			*1,000 Pounds*		
Alfalfa	413,000	449,500	343,500	248	248	268	102,528	111,435	91,91
Red Clover	332,000	328,900	355,100	90	92	104	29,965	30,186	36,90
Ladino Clover	12,000	9,000	11,000	260	365	390	3,120	3,285	4,29
Lespedeza	81,000	67,000	77,800	205	186	218	16,561	12,495	16,93
Timothy	153,500	141,400	74,700	156	165	177	23,903	23,284	13,19
Orchardgrass	43,300	37,400	31,000	482	436	470	20,866	16,322	14,58
Merion Ky. Bluegrass	17,900	14,500	8,400	241	275	273	4,321	3,988	2,29
Other Ky. Bluegrass	-	-	-	-	-	-	35,859	54,553	35,63
Chewings Fescue	14,000	13,000	11,500	550	525	500	7,700	6,825	5,75
Red Fescue	14,500	15,000	13,000	500	460	450	7,250	6,900	5,85
Tall Fescue	457,000	418,000	417,500	291	253	273	133,000	105,895	114,02
Bentgrass	29,000	28,000	20,000	320	330	330	9,280	9,240	6,60
Crimson Clover	8,300	7,150	6,550	322	249	340	2,670	1,778	2,22
Hairy Vetch	33,000	24,500	28,400	182	176	241	6,005	4,310	6,84
All Ryegrass	180,000	190,000	180,000	1,160	1,150	1,260	208,800	218,500	226,80

CROP	PRODUCTION PLUS CARRYOVER 1/		SEASON AVERAGE PRICE 2/		VALUE OF PRODUCTION	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
	1,000 Pounds		*Dollars*		*1,000 Dollars*	
Alfalfa	139,305	144,551	83.20	69.20	91,539	62,82
Red Clover	40,342	46,431	59.80	49.40	17,561	18,08
Ladino Clover	4,539	5,936	160.00	-	5,256	
Lespedeza	16,177	19,534	35.80	31.70	4,507	5,42
Timothy	31,379	25,467	21.20	14.10	4,867	1,83
Orchardgrass	25,883	24,059	32.00	25.90	5,215	3,77
Merion Ky. Bluegrass	7,013	5,695	60.40	75.90	2,409	1,74
Other Ky. Bluegrass	-	-	-	-	-	
Chewings Fescue	9,883	9,567	31.00	26.00	2,116	1,49
Red Fescue	13,611	13,489	30.00	25.00	2,070	1,46
Tall Fescue	136,040	141,432	14.30	13.60	15,142	15,46
Bentgrass	12,585	10,798	40.00	44.00	3,696	2,90
Crimson Clover	2,230	2,430	57.80	59.80	1,027	1,33
Hairy Vetch	8,368	7,626	19.05	24.00	821	1,64
All Ryegrass	276,030	275,956	17.00	11.50	37,145	26,08

1/ Includes farm and dealer carryover on June 30.
2/ Based on the price received by producers for the part of the crop sold as clean seed.

MILK: Production, Disposition and Income, 1974-75, North Carolina

ITEMS	UNIT	1974 Revised	1975 Preliminary
FARM PRODUCTION OF MILK AND MILKFAT:			
Number of milk cows on farms 1/	No.	152,000	153,000
Milk produced per milk cow 2/	Lbs.	10,092	10,471
Butterfat produced per milk cow	Lbs.	369	383
Percentage of fat in milk	%	3.66	3.66
Total milk produced on farms 2/	Lbs.	1,534,000,000	1,602,000,000
Total milkfat produced on farms	Lbs.	56,000,000	59,000,000
MILK USED ON FARMS WHERE PRODUCED:			
Fed to calves 2/	Lbs.	18,000,000	15,000,000
Used for milk, cream and butter	Lbs.	152,000,000	148,000,000
Total used on farms	Lbs.	170,000,000	163,000,000
MILK MARKETED BY FARMERS:			
Sold to plants and dealers as whole milk 3/	Lbs.	1,345,000,000	1,420,000,000
Sold directly to consumers 4/	Lbs.	19,000,000	19,000,000
Total Sold	Lbs.	1,364,000,000	1,439,000,000
MILK SOLD BY FARMERS TO PLANTS AND DEALERS:			
Quantity	Lbs.	1,345,000,000	1,420,000,000
Price per 100 pounds	Dols.	10.10	10.35
Cash receipts from sales to plants & dealers	Dols.	135,845,000	146,970,000
MILK SOLD BY FARMERS DIRECTLY TO CONSUMERS:			
Quantity	Qts.	8,837,000	8,837,000
Price per quart	Cts.	37.0	37.0
Cash receipts from direct sales	Dols.	3,270,000	3,270,000
RETURNS FROM COMBINED MARKETINGS OF MILK AND CREAM:			
Average per 100 pounds milk 5/	Dols.	10.20	10.44
Average per pound butterfat 5/	Dols.	2.79	2.85
Total cash receipts from marketings	Dols.	139,115,000	150,240,000
VALUE OF MILK, CREAM AND BUTTER USED ON FARMS WHERE PRODUCED: 6/	Dols.	15,504,000	15,451,000
GROSS FARM INCOME FROM DAIRY PRODUCTS: 7/	Dols.	154,619,000	165,691,000
FARM VALUE OF MILK PRODUCED 6/ 8/	Dols.	156,468,000	167,249,000

1/ Average number on farms during year excluding heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves. 3/ Includes milk produced by dealer's own herds. 4/ Sales directly to consumers by producers who sell only milk from their own herds. Also includes milk produced by institutional herds. 5/ Cash receipts divided by milk or milkfat represented in combined marketings. 6/ Valued at average returns per 100 pounds of milk in combined marketings of milk and cream. 7/ Cash receipts from marketings of milk and cream plus value of milk used for home consumption and farm-churned butter. 8/ Includes value of milk fed to calves.

NUMBER OF LAYERS AND EGG PRODUCTION -- APRIL

STATE	LAYERS ON HAND		EGGS PER 100 LAYERS		TOTAL EGGS PRODUCED	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands		*Number*		*Millions*	
North Carolina	11,650	11,600	1,965	1,974	229	229
Virginia	3,145	3,194	1,881	1,914	59	61
South Carolina	5,718	5,375	1,983	2,049	113	110
Georgia	22,600	22,429	1,824	2,025	412	454
Florida	11,636	11,734	1,950	2,010	227	236
UNITED STATES	275,806	272,564	1,922	1,954	5,301	5,325

CHICKS HATCHED -- APRIL

STATE	BROILER-TYPE		EGG-TYPE		ALL TYPES	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands					
North Carolina	26,511	31,442	704	649	27,215	32,091
South Carolina	1,913	2,440	957	1,016	2,870	3,456
Georgia	38,297	42,111	3,768	4,874	42,065	46,985
Florida	6,288	7,907	3,287	3,684	9,575	11,591
Delaware	12,331	14,718	1/	1/	12,331	14,718
Maryland	17,652	18,363	1/	1/	17,652	18,363
Virginia	7,360	8,269	814	515	8,174	8,784
UNITED STATES	275,315	309,483	47,409	50,813	322,724	360,296

1/ Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations.

MORE POULTS HATCHED

The U. S. commercial hatch of turkey poults during April 1976, at 19.7 million, was 6 percent above a year ago. The hatch of heavy breeds was up 5 percent from the same month last year to 17.8 million poults and light breed poults hatched were up 19 percent to 2.0 million.

The number of turkey eggs in incubators on May 1, 1976, at 27.6 million, was 6 percent above last year. Eggs for heavy breed turkeys were up 5 percent from last year and light breeds were up 15 percent.

POULTS HATCHED -- APRIL

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION (U.S.)	HEAVY BREEDS 1/		LIGHT BREEDS		ALL BREEDS	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands		*Thousands*		*Thousands*	
North Atlantic	335	384	81	82	416	466
East North Central	2,563	2,710	92	63	2,655	2,773
West North Central	5,841	6,483	805	966	6,646	7,449
South Atlantic	2,342	2,481	346	468	2,688	2,949
South Central	2,011	1,897	0	0	2,011	1,897
West	3,868	3,815	333	399	4,201	4,214
UNITED STATES	16,960	17,770	1,657	1,978	18,617	19,748

1/ Birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is 12 pounds or over.
2/ Birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is less than 12 pounds.

MARCH LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER HIGHER

Commercial slaughter of livestock in North Carolina during April totaled 46,594,000 pounds live weight, down 3 percent from the 48,238,000 pounds slaughtered during April 1975.

Hogs slaughtered decreased 4 percent from a year earlier to 146,000 head, while live weight was down 5 percent. Cattle slaughtered during the month totaled 15,900 head, slightly below April 1975. Live weight of cattle, at 14,453,000 pounds, was up slightly. The calf kill, at 600, was 200 head more than a year earlier. About 100 sheep and lambs were slaughtered during the month for a total of 10,000 pounds live weight.

Commercial production of red meat in the United States totaled over 3.1 billion pounds in April, 1 percent above a year ago, but 1 percent below April 1974. Commercial meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER 1/

SPECIES	APRIL				JANUARY THROUGH APRIL			
	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thous. Head		*Thous. Lbs.*		*Thous. Head*		*Thous. Lbs.*	
	NORTH CAROLINA							
Cattle	16.0	15.9	14,400	14,453	62.7	76.6	55,436	69,235
Calves	.4	.6	94	157	1.8	3.0	451	706
Sheep & Lambs	-	.1	-	10	.1	.2	7	20
Hogs	152.0	146.0	33,744	31,974	588.0	590.0	131,890	133,032
TOTAL	168.4	162.6	48,238	46,594	652.6	669.8	187,784	202,993
	UNITED STATES							
	Million Head		*Million Lbs.*		*Million Head*		*Million Lbs.*	
Cattle	3.2	3.4	3,237	3,417	12.9	14.3	13,184	14,482
Calves	.4	.4	107	104	1.5	1.8	400	469
Sheep & Lambs	.7	.6	68	64	2.6	2.3	274	254
Hogs	6.7	6.1	1,597	1,437	25.5	23.5	6,052	5,585
TOTAL	11.0	10.5	5,009	5,022	42.5	41.9	19,910	20,790

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

SUPPLIES *(Continued From Page 1)*

Strong consumer demand is absorbing the increased output at prices above a year ago. Even if crops are large this year, the price impacts of bigger supplies may be offset by expanding domestic markets and prospects for well maintained exports. As a result, crop receipts this year may be down only modestly from 1975.

Production expenses will continue to rise and largely offset any increase in gross receipts. Prices of some inputs have turned down and the price rise slowed for some others. But farmers will be using larger quantities of inputs this year and production expenses are expected to rise by 5 to 6 percent from 1975.

Although considerable uncertainty remains in the second half outlook picture, the net income position of farmers this year is not expected to change much in 1976 from last year when net income totaled $26 billion, including the value of a sizable buildup in inventories.

DYNAMICS OF LAND USE IN FAST GROWTH AREAS

At the national level, urbanization has not greatly encroached upon the total supply of U. S. land used for crops according to a study made by USDA's Economic Research Service. In a study of 53 counties, in which 20 percent of the 1960 to 1970 U. S. population increase occurred, urban uses in 1970 occupied only 16.4 percent of the total land area, up from about 13 percent in 1961.

About 770,000 acres were converted to urban uses in the 53 counties during the 9-year period. Of these, 35 percent had been cropland, 4 percent pasture, 28 percent forest, and 33 percent open idle.

For all the counties, .173 acres of rural land were urbanized for each person increase in population.

There is considerable regional variation in the effects of urbanization on rural land uses and on the supply of land for food and fiber production. The proportion of new urban land coming from cropland ranged from 6 percent in the Florida counties to 70 percent in those in California. It was 50 percent in the Corn Belt area and 62 percent in the Great Lakes region. The amount of land urbanized per person increase in population also varied regionally from .097 acres in California to .481 acres in Florida. Generally, the per capita urbanization rate was lower where urbanization took a high proportion of cropland and higher where urbanization used more forest and other noncropland.

Advancing urbanization has often meant intensification of use rather than expansion to rural areas. For example, residential land was converted to commercial-industrial-institutional as well as to transportation uses.

Cropland declined from about 33 percent of the total study area in 1961 to 30.4 percent in 1970. Only 49 percent of this net decline resulted directly from urbanization. More new cropland was developed, in fact, than was lost to urban development. Other factors accounted for more cropland decline than urban encroachment. These include abandonment of marginal cropland to pasture and diversion of cropland to open idle as changing technology makes farming of some land uneconomic.

In the study counties taken as a whole, acreage of land identified as open idle--nonforested land with no evidence of cropping, pasturage, or other activity--decreased by 104,000 acres. However, two areas, Florida and Colorado, accounted for most of the decrease. In those areas, substantial acreages of previously idle land were developed for cropland. The remainder of the counties, on net, showed an increase in acreage of idle land. Of the total additions to idle land, over 60 percent came from cropland. Of the land moving out of the idle category, 37 percent went to urban use and 30 percent went to agricultural use.

This study, documenting land use change by interpretation from aerial photography, shows that two other nonurban uses--pasture and range and forests--experienced only slight declines between 1961 and 1970.

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NORTH CAROLINA Farm Report

Federal - State
Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

No. 707 June 18, 1976

CROPS IMPROVE BUT COOL WEATHER SLOWS GROWTH

Generally adequate amounts of precipitation covered North Carolina during the last three weeks of May but cool temperatures slowed plant growth in many areas. Heavy rains the last weekend of May and during the first week of June in some Mountain areas caused some severe erosion. There was some hail and wind damage to crops in the Coastal Plains, also during the first week of June.

Despite the cool temperatures, the increase in precipitation brought a general improvement in crop conditions during the four week period. As of June 1, soil moisture averaged 45 percent adequate and 55 percent surplus for the state, with the heaviest amounts in the western Mountains, central Piedmont and central Coastal Plains.

(See Crops, Page 2)

SPRING IRISH POTATO CROP SMALLER

Spring Irish potato production in North Carolina during 1976 is forecast to be 1,885,000 hundredweight--down 2 percent from the 1975 crop. Acres for harvest are estimated at 13,000--up 1,000 from 1975. Yields are expected to average 145 cwt. per acre--off 15 cwt. from last year.

U. S. PRODUCTION UP

The final 1976 U. S. spring potato crop forecast at 24.3 million cwt. is 2 percent above the May 1 forecast and 22 percent above the 20.0 million cwt. produced in 1975. Estimated yield per acre increased to an average of 245 cwt., up 3 percent from last year's average of 237 cwt. Acreage for harvest at 99,400 is 18 percent above a year earlier.

(See Table, Page 5.)

WHEAT PROSPECTS STABLE

Winter wheat production in North Carolina is forecast at 6,600,000 bushels as of June 1, unchanged from the May 1 outlook but down 29 percent from the 1975 crop. Acres for harvest are estimated at 275,000--down 25,000 from 1975. Yield prospects remain the same as the May 1 forecast of 24 bushels per acre, off from the 31 bushels in 1975.

Harvest is well underway and as of June 12, 29 percent of the crop had been combined. This is slightly ahead of the 1975 pace of 26 percent and well ahead of the average of 17 percent.

U. S. FORECAST DOWN FROM MAY

Winter wheat production in the U.S. is forecast at 1,416 million bushels, based on June 1 conditions. This is down 14 percent from the record production of a year ago but up 2 percent from the 1974 crop. If realized, the 1976 crop would be the second largest of record. The decrease in production from last year is the result of fewer acres for harvest and lower average yield expected for this year's crop. The June 1 forecast is down 3 percent from last month, mainly as a result of early May freeze damage.

MAY MILK PRODUCTION RISES

Milk production on Tar Heel farms during May is estimated at 142 million pounds, up 3 percent from a year earlier and up 7 percent from May 1974. This increase was caused in part by the record high production per cow for May of 920 pounds, 20 pounds above May 1975. Estimated milk cows on farms, at 154,000, also increased--up 1,000 from last year.

UNITED STATES PRODUCTION UP

May milk production in the Nation totaled 11.2 billion pounds, up 3.4 percent from a year earlier and up 2.9 percent from May 1974. This increase resulted from production per cow during May averaging 1,011 pounds, a record high, up 43 pounds from a year ago and 42 pounds from May 1974. Partially offsetting the increase in rate per cow was a 1.0 percent decline from a year earlier in the number of milk cows. Milk cows also declined slightly from April.

Production for the first five months of 1976 was 3.2 percent above the same period last year and 3.3 percent above 1974.

The U. S. May milk-feed price ratio, at 1.53, was 4.4 percent below the April ratio due to a decline in milk prices and increased feed cost. However, the May ratio was still 17.7 percent above that of a year earlier resulting from higher milk prices and lower feed cost than a year ago.

CROPS *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

Farm activity during the period of May 9 - June 5 centered around planting and cultivating. Flue-cured tobacco, corn, peanut and cotton planting were all virtually complete by the end of May, somewhat ahead of normal. As of June 5, burley tobacco was 90 percent transplanted, well ahead of the 77 percent set at that time last year. Soybeans lagged somewhat at 64 percent, mainly due to wet conditions during the first week of June. This compares with 68 percent planted last year and an average of 65 percent. Sweet potato planting was 65 percent finished, slightly ahead of the 1975 pace of 63 percent. Sorghum was 70 percent planted compared with 58 percent one year ago.

Harvest of small grains got underway during the first week of June at about the same pace as in 1975 but somewhat earlier than the average. Peach and Irish potato harvest also got started. Hay harvest was moving well ahead of normal at 33 percent complete.

As of June 5, tobacco, corn, soybeans, peanuts and hay were all in fair to mostly good condition. Irish potatoes and pastures were rated fair to good. Peaches were in poor to good but mostly fair condition, statewide, with Sandhills peaches in slightly better shape. Apples in the major producing mountain areas looked good but were rated mostly fair on the average for the state.

MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION -- MAY

STATE	MILK COWS ON FARMS 1/			MILK PER COW 2/			MILK PRODUCTION 2/			
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1976 As % Of 1975
	Thousands			*Pounds*			*Million Pounds*			*Percent*
N. C.	152	153	154	875	900	920	133	138	142	103
Va.	159	158	159	980	1,010	1,000	156	160	159	99
Md.	135	140	142	1,015	1,020	1,030	137	143	146	102
Ga.	131	130	128	795	785	835	104	102	107	105
Fla.	201	198	198	845	905	925	170	179	183	102
U. S.	11,216	11,172	11,061	969	968	1,011	10,865	10,818	11,184	103

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

RISE IN MILK OUTPUT INDICATED FOR '76

Continued expansion in U. S. milk production is probable for the rest of 1976 since milk-feed price relationships are expected to remain favorable to heavier concentrate feeding. Although pressures for greater herd culling are building, the declines from a year earlier in milk cow numbers likely will remain modest. Total 1976 milk output could exceed 1975's 115.5 billion pounds by around 2 billion pounds. The gain could be larger or smaller depending on cull cow prices, milk prices, feed costs, or developments in the general economy.

Widespread increases in March milk production brought first quarter output to 29.0 billion pounds, up almost 2 percent from 1975, on a daily average basis, and the largest production in 4 years. Milk cow numbers in March were down 1 percent from last year and unchanged from February. Although the decline from a year earlier was slightly faster than in early 1975, it remained slow compared with earlier years.

Milk production per cow in March was up more than 3 percent, the sharpest year-to-year gain since September 1974. Increases in output per cow have been induced by heavier grain feeding this year. Farmers reported feeding 5 percent more grain and other concentrates on April 1 than a year ago.

Farmers received an average $9.48 per hundred pounds of milk in April, 82 cents below the December peak but $1.34 above last April. The average milk price was buttressed by a counter-seasonal rise since February in manufacturing milk prices, reflecting the higher wholesale butter and cheese prices.

Farm milk prices likely will decline in the face of strong flush season milk production but will average 10-15 percent above a year earlier during the flush. Milk prices could post a fairly strong seasonal rise during the second half of 1976, but the increases are unlikely to match 1975's rapid rise.

Cash receipts from dairying were up almost a fourth during January-March due to much higher prices and larger marketings. Last year, dairy income was almost $9.9 billion, up 5 percent from 1974.

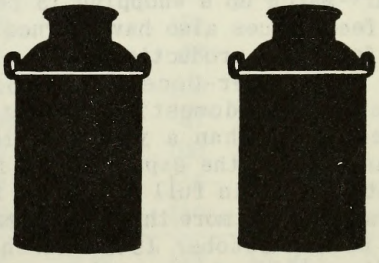
Wholesale butter and cheese prices have been rather unsettled since the first of the year. After strengthening counter-seasonally from February, butter and cheese prices were above support purchase prices in early May. Nonfat dry milk prices were close to support levels and small net purchases have been made.

Prices of milk and dairy products at retail declined slightly in March, as declines in the prices of manufactured products offset slight increases in the fluid products. However, March retail prices were up 8 percent from a year ago and the average for all of 1976 likely will be 6-8 percent above 1975.

Cheese production continued to pull milk away from butter-powder operations in recent months, as well as absorbing most of the increase in milk supplies available for manufacturing. American cheese output was up about 17 percent from a year ago in the first 3 months of 1976, while butter production was down about 5 percent and nonfat dry milk output was down almost a fifth. Cheese production probably will continue to attract more milk in coming months.

First quarter sales of dairy products were up almost 3 percent from a year earlier due to strong cheese sales and small gains in fluid milk sales. Fluid milk and butter sales may slip below year-earlier levels in coming months but cheese sales likely will remain strong.

Commercial dairy stocks have recovered somewhat from last winter's low levels but the strong sales have kept commercial holdings rather tight. The 4.2 billion pounds milk equivalent in commercial hands on April 1 was down 17 percent from 1975, with butter and American cheese stocks down a fifth.



FEED SITUATION LOOKS FAVORABLE

With an unusually mild and open spring, U. S. farmers got off to their earliest start ever in grain planting, and crop prospects so far are generally favorable in most major producing areas. Assuming normal weather, the 1976 corn crop is projected at 6.0 to 6.7 billion bushels, up from the previous 5.8 billion bushel record in 1975, according to USDA's Outlook and Situation Board. Production of the four feed grains (corn, sorghum, oats, barley) is projected at 207 to 231 million short tons, compared with 202 million in 1975.

If crop production is within this range, prices at harvest time will likely slip moderately below those of last October-December. In this event, a rise of about a tenth in domestic feeding in 1976-77 is projected and would be the dominant price-supporting factor. But decline of almost a fifth in exports is projected if world crop prospects continue normal.

Feed grain prices have been comparatively stable since early 1976 while substantial increases in livestock and poultry feeding have been developing and exports are moving toward a new record high for 1975-76.

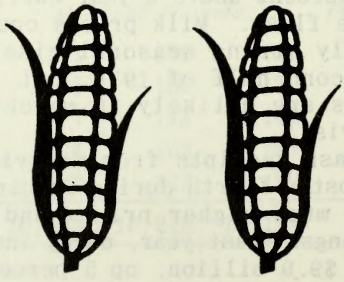
The relationship of livestock and poultry prices to feed costs generally has encouraged feeders to expand their operations since about mid-1975. Increases in feeding began to get underway late last summer when it seemed likely that the corn crop would be large enough to hold feed costs in 1975-76 below the historically high levels of the year before. Cattle placements have been heavy since last summer, and substantially larger numbers on feed began showing by November. Pigs born in the first stages of the current hog expansion are nearing slaughter weights. Broiler meat output is running near industry capacity, with production in Januarv-March up a whopping 15 percent. Milk-feed prices also have turned favorable for dairy production.

In October-December 1975, feed grain use for domestic feeding was 3 percent less than a year earlier; in January-March, the expansion in feeding operations was in full swing and feeding use was a fifth more than a year earlier. Feed use in October 1975--March 1976, the first half of the 1975-76 year, was 7 percent larger than a year earlier. The expansion is expected to continu and feed grain use for domestic feedin in this marketing year probably will b 12 percent larger than in 1974-75.

Feed grain exports in 1975-76 ar expected to total about 53 million shor tons, 35 percent more than in 1974-7 and 21 percent more than the previou record 44 million tons in 1973-74. Mos of the increase from last year is due t larger exports of corn to the USSR Eastern Europe, and the European Com munity. Exports and outstanding sale to the USSR this season now total abou 12 million metric tons (13 millio short), virtually all corn.

Increases in domestic disappearanc and exports of feed grains combined i 1975-76 will just about use up the 16 percent increase in supply over 1974-75 Carryover stocks at the end of 1975-7 are expected to total only about 18 mil lion tons, little different from th very low 1974-75 carryover. Therefore the immediate future in the feed grai and livestock economies is heavily de pendent on 1976 harvests and on cro prospects around the world, as well a on the state of the general economy her and in other major grain-using countries

Soybean meal supplies are runnin at all-time highs in 1975-76 and price of high protein feeds relative to fee grain prices are lower than usual. Therefore, there has been some substi tution of high protein feeds for grain in feed rations. Along with the expan sion in livestock and poultry feeding this is responsible for sharp increase in the soybean crush and in meal dis appearance.



SPRING IRISH POTATOES: Acres, Yield and Production

STATE	ACRES HARVESTED			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	1974	1975	Indicated June 1, 1976	1974	1975	Indicated June 1, 1976	1974	1975	Indicated June 1, 1976
	Thousands			*Cwt.*			*Thousand Cwts.*		
NORTH CAROLINA.	13.0	12.0	13.0	165	160	145	2,145	1,920	1,885
Fla.-Hastings..	18.8	16.2	19.0	175	195	200	3,290	3,159	3,800
-Other.....	2.8	1.9	2.7	170	185	165	476	352	446
Alabama.....	12.5	10.6	11.5	145	130	140	1,813	1,378	1,610
Mississippi....	2.0	1.9	2.0	95	90	95	190	171	190
Louisiana.....	2.8	2.6	2.9	90	70	85	252	182	247
Texas.....	7.4	5.5	6.8	130	150	135	962	825	918
Arizona.....	8.6	6.2	6.7	260	245	300	2,236	1,519	2,010
California.....	35.5	27.6	34.8	385	380	380	13,668	10,488	13,224
TOTAL.....	103.4	84.5	99.4	242	237	245	25,032	19,994	24,330

STATE NUMBER ONE IN YAMS

North Carolina continued its top ranking in sweet potato production in 1975. An estimated 4.5 million hundredweight were harvested from 31,000 acres. Production was up nearly 15 percent from the 1974 total, and acreage was up by about 7 percent. North Carolina accounted for approximately one third of the total U. S. production. Yields in the state in 1975 averaged about 145 hundredweight per harvested acre, well above the national average of 114.

SWEET POTATOES: Acreage, Yield and Production, By States, 1974-75*

STATE	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield Per Harvested Acre		Total Production	
	1974	1973	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
	Acres		*Acres*		*Cwt.*		*Thous. Cwt.*	
N. C.	30,000	32,000	29,000	31,000	135	145	3,915	4,495
Ala.	5,500	5,800	5,500	5,800	100	90	550	522
Ark.	1,700	1,500	1,700	1,500	75	80	128	120
Calif.	6,700	7,300	6,700	7,300	165	140	1,106	1,022
Ga.	8,500	8,000	8,000	7,500	95	100	760	750
La.	36,000	31,000	35,000	30,000	105	85	3,675	2,550
Md.	2,200	2,200	2,100	2,100	140	155	294	326
Miss.	9,000	9,500	9,000	9,500	100	97	900	922
N. J.	1,800	2,000	1,800	2,000	120	110	216	220
S. C.	2,500	2,300	2,500	2,300	91	87	228	200
Tenn.	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	100	105	300	315
Texas	11,000	10,500	10,000	10,000	85	115	850	1,150
Va.	7,700	6,900	7,400	6,500	135	150	999	975
U. S.	125,600	122,000	121,700	118,500	114	114	13,921	13,567

* *1975 Revised.*

N. C. PEACH PRODUCTION DOWN

North Carolina's peach forecast for the 1976 crop remains at the May 1 figure of 15,000,000 pounds. This is off 50 percent from the 1975 total as a result of several freezes during critical stages of the growing season.

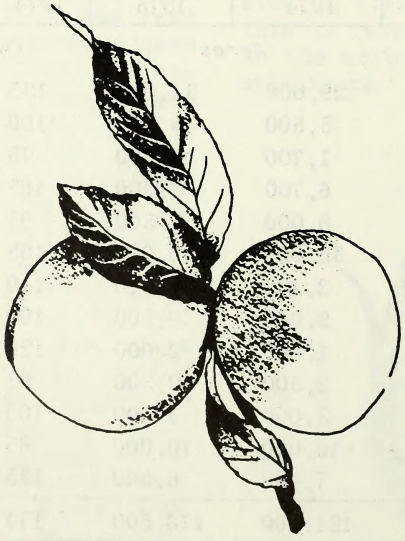
Harvest has gotten underway in many areas and by June 12, about 12 percent of the crop had been picked. This is somewhat ahead of the 1975 and average pace of 5 percent. The condition of the crop at that time was ranging from poor to good in the state as a whole but mainly fair to good in the major producing area.

U. S. PRODUCTION UP

The 1976 U. S. peach crop is forecast at 3,194 million pounds, 13 percent above last year and 10 percent higher than the utilized crop of 1974. The total of all peaches except California Clingstones is forecast at 1,494 million pounds, up 8 percent from the 1975 and 16 percent above the 1974 utilized crop.

ESTIMATED PEACH PRODUCTION, BY STATES

STATE	1974		1975		Indicated June 1, 1976	
	Million Pounds	48 Pound Equivalents	Million Pounds	48 Pound Equivalents	Million Pounds	48 Pound Equivalents
	Thousands		*Thousands*		*Thousands*	
NORTH CAROLINA.	20.0	417	30.0	625	15.0	313
South Carolina.	215.0	4,479	210.0	4,375	245.0	5,104
Georgia.....	45.0	938	95.0	1,979	210.0	4,375
Alabama.....	9.0	188	7.0	146	15.0	313
Mississippi....	7.0	146	7.0	146	15.0	313
Arkansas.....	20.0	417	35.0	729	42.0	875
Louisiana.....	6.3	131	3.0	63	6.5	135
Oklahoma.....	.1	2	6.8	142	7.0	146
Texas.....	18.0	375	16.0	333	23.0	479
9 STATES.....	340.4	7,093	409.8	8,538	578.5	12,053



COTTON SUPPLIES TIGHTENING

The currently bright demand outlook for cotton and wool is dimmed by growing concern over the future availability of raw fiber supplies. The potentially tight supply developing in the face of strong demand indicates continued large imports of cotton textiles and raw wool. Strong domestic demand for natural fibers reflects recovery in the general economy, expanded textile activity, and keen consumer interest in the ''natural'' or ''soft'' look of cotton, wool, and mohair. Demand is also increasing overseas and with more competitive U. S. cotton prices, export prospects are improving. So robust demand, coupled with tightening supplies, has caused cotton prices to rise substantially over the past year.

As a result of these higher prices, farmers have indicated intentions to plant 16 percent more cotton this spring--somewhat below recent expectations. In early April, farmers revealed plans to plant 11¼ million acres of cotton, the same as indicated in January but over 1 million below the 1971-75 average. However, strengthening cotton prices over the past month indicate that these intentions may be conservative, particularly in Texas where recent rains have brightened planting prospects. The biggest rebound from last year's depressed cotton acreage is planned for the Delta, where intended soybean acreage is down 7½ percent. Still, rising cotton production costs are limiting the shift to cotton.

The larger acreage planned for the 1976 cotton crop points to production sharply above last year's 8.3 million bales. However, yields will be of crucial importance in determining the exact level of output and thus the adequacy of 1976-77 supplies. Chances now look good for normal to above-normal yields. Regional acreage shifts should benefit national average yields as the largest increases in cotton acreage are expected in the higher-yielding areas of the Cotton Belt. Also, favorable weather has allowed producers to get an early jump on field preparation and planting.

With strong demand foreseen for 1976-77, combined mill use and exports could total as much as 12 million bales if supplies are larger than expected. However, it now appears that the availability of supplies will be a limiting factor and could hold disappearance as low as 10 million bales. Exports may range from 3½ to 4½ million bales as U. S. cotton moves to fill the gap between foreign cotton consumption and production. Domestic demand offers a potential mill consumption increase in 1976-77 despite continuing stiff competition from man-made fibers. However, tight cotton supplies and large textile imports may undermine this opportunity. U. S. mill use could range from 6½ to 7½ million bales, depending on the level of cotton supplies, prices, and textile imports.

Imports will account for nearly a fifth of cotton products sold over American retail counters this spring, up from around 13 percent a year ago--an apparent reduction in 1975-76 U. S. mill use of about 400,000 bales. Most of the increased imports during recent months are print cloth and sheeting fabrics from the People's Republic of China, with whom we have no textile trade agreements.

Another dominant feature in the near-term outlook for cotton is the carryover situation this summer. With 1975-76 disappearance over 2 million bales above the small 1975 crop, stocks are falling sharply and may approximate 3½ million on July 31. Stocks of the shorter staples (less than 1-1/16 inches) are expected to be extremely tight. Since new crop supplies of these staples generally will not be available in any significant volume until at least December, the supply situation will tighten further this fall.

Prospects for cotton disappearance during the balance of the current season have improved in recent months. Combined mill use and exports during 1975-76 are now placed at about 10¾ million bales, up 1 million from last year. While mill consumption of around 7¼ million bales is anticipated, a sharp pickup in export sales since mid-January points to shipments this season of close to 3½ million.

MODERATE FOOD PRICE RISE LIKELY

Large food supplies along with some narrowing in farm-to-retail price spreads arrested the rise in U. S. retail food prices during the early months of 1976. Although larger supplies relative to last year may continue to have a dampening effect, retail food prices are expected to turn up again this spring and may continue to rise through the summer. But sharp increases like those of last summer are not likely and, by fall, there may be some price softening.

In view of the uncertainties ahead, the average increase in retail food prices in 1976 could range from 2 to 5 percent above 1975, depending on crop developments at home and abroad, as well as the strength of the economic recovery. However, under conditions which now appear most likely, retail food prices in 1976 would average 3 to 4 percent above 1975. This compares with the increase of 8½ percent from 1974 to 1975.

Current expectations suggest food prices increasing moderately during the spring and summer with second quarter prices averaging slightly above the first quarter level. A further advance of 1 to 2 percent appears likely for the third quarter. Higher prices for beef and veal likely will account for much of the increase as supplies will be seasonally lower compared to the record large first quarter output. Seasonal price increases for poultry products and fresh fruits along with higher prices for coffee and fishery items will also contribute to overall food price advances. Expected increases are smaller than the sharp jumps in mid-1975 and the increases from a year earlier are likely to narrow. If the small declines develop as expected later in the year, food prices in the last quarter may average around 2 percent above the last quarter of 1975.

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NORTH CAROLINA Farm Report

Federal - State
Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

No. 708 July 8, 1976

FEWER TOBACCO AND SOYBEAN ACRES -- MORE CORN

A survey of North Carolina farmers during late May and early June indicated that they will harvest less acreages than last year of tobacco and soybeans but more corn. (For detailed data on planted and harvested acres for North Carolina and the United States, see table on page 7.)

Tar Heel tobacco growers expect to harvest 436,000 acres of flue-cured leaf, 9 percent less than the large 1975 crop.

Soybean acres planted are down 20 percent from last year to 1,200,000 acres of which 1,150,000 acres are intended for harvest for beans.

Indicated corn plantings at 2,100,000 acres are up 24 percent from 1975, and 1,940,000 acres are intended for harvest for grain.

Cotton acres planted at 70,000 are up 25 percent from the 56,000 acres planted in 1975. Peanut acreage is slightly higher than last year.

United States' indications of planted acres show less soybeans and tobacco but more corn, cotton, and peanuts.

MAY EGG PRODUCTION UP 4 PERCENT

Eggs produced on Tar Heel farms during May 1976 are estimated at 231 million, up 4 percent from May 1975. The number of hens and pullets of laying age on hand during the month averaged 11.3 million birds compared with 11.1 million a year earlier. The number of eggs produced per 100 layers averaged 2,040 eggs during the month -- a record high for May.

(See Egg Production, Page 6)

JUNE PRICE INDEX INCREASES

The ''All Farm Products'' index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets during June is 175 (1967 = 100), an increase of 3 points from May, but unchanged from June 1975.

The June ''All Crops'' index, at 168, is up 3 points from May. The components most affecting this rise are oil bearing crops, up 23 points to 203; and grains, up 11 points to 211. Commercial vegetables and fruits are down 1 point and 31 points, respectively.

The ''Livestock and Livestock Products'' index rose 2 points from May. All components were up except dairy which decreased one point to 161. (See Table, Page 2.)

N. C. FARROWING INTENTIONS RISE

Hog producers in North Carolina intend to farrow 116,000 sows during the months of June, July, and August. If these intentions are realized, this will be 23 percent more than were farrowed during the same period in 1975. Reported intentions to farrow during September, October, and November, at 95,000 sows, are up 14 percent from 1975.

All hogs and pigs on Tar Heel farms June 1, 1976 are estimated at 1,950,000 head, an increase of 17 percent from June 1975 but 3 percent below June 1, 1974. The total consists of 312,000 head kept for breeding purposes and 1,638,000 head of market hogs. The number of head kept for marketing is 18 percent above those on hand June 1, 1975. North Carolina ranks seventh in the nation for total hogs and pigs on hand June 1, 1976.

(See N. C. Farrowings, Page 4)

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP 4 POINTS
PRICES PAID INDEX UP 2 POINTS

The Index of Prices Received by U.S. Farmers increased 4 points (2 percent) to 195 percent of its January-December 1967 average during the month ended June 15, 1976. Contributing most to the increase since mid-May were higher prices for soybeans, corn and hogs. Lower prices for cattle, apples, and hay were partially offsetting. The index was 9 points (5 percent) above a year earlier.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates for June 15 was 195, up 2 points (1 percent) from a month earlier. Higher prices for feed and farm machinery were the major contributors to the index increase. Prices averaged higher for all components surveyed except feeder livestock and clothing. The index was 12 points (7 percent) above a year earlier.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARM PRICES INDEX NUMBERS

INDEX (1967 = 100)	June 15 1973	June 15 1974	June 15 1975	May 15 1976	June 15 1976
NORTH CAROLINA					
Prices Received: All Farm Products....	163	148	175	172	175
All Crops.....	157	3/ 152	173	165	168
Tobacco.....	130	135	161	152	152
Cotton.....	160	3/ 225	154	242	242
Oil Bearing.....	270	183	184	180	203
Grains.....	171	205	202	200	211
Commercial Vegetables.....	3/ 198	3/ 191	3/ 229	181	180
Fruits.....	3/ 127	3/ 140	3/ 206	196	165
Livestock and Livestock Products.....	173	141	3/ 178	186	188
Meat Animals.....	197	139	203	221	223
Poultry.....	178	138	174	177	179
Dairy.....	124	3/ 154	3/ 154	162	161
UNITED STATES					
Prices Received, All Farm Products.....	172	165	3/ 186	3/ 191	195
Prices Paid, Commodities & Services 1/.	3/ 152	3/ 170	3/ 183	193	195
Parity Ratio 2/.....	118	99	3/ 102	99	100

1/ Including Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid. 3/ Revised.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRICES MIXED, FEED PRICES UP

Average prices received for crops by North Carolina farmers at local markets about mid-June were mixed compared to a month earlier. (See Table, Page 3.) Soybeans showed the largest increase of $1.01 per bushel and reached $5.89. Corn was up 17 cents per bushel to $2.90 while oats dropped five cents per bushel to $1.52.

Prices received for livestock were generally lower. Beef cattle decreased 30 cents per hundredweight and veal calves were down $3.40 per hundredweight. Hogs increased $1.00 to $49.10 per hundredweight.

Feed prices paid by the state's farmers during June rose. (See Table, Page 3.) Mixed dairy feeds of 14 and 16 percent protein were up from May at $6.00 and $7.00 per ton, respectively, while 32 percent protein feed rose $8.00 per ton. Chick starter increased $3.00 per ton to $166.00 and turkey grower was up $3.00 per ton to $172.00. In the high protein feeds category, cottonseed meal (41 percent protein) rose 50 cents per hundredweight and soybean meal (44 percent protein) was up $1.40 per hundredweight from May.

COMMODITY PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		June 15 1975	May 15 1976	June 15 1976*	June 15 1975	May 15 1976	June 15 1976*
		Dollars					
Tobacco	Lb.	-	-	-	.855	1.095	1.055
Corn	Bu.	2.81	2.73	2.90	2.68	2.61	2.74
Wheat	Bu.	2.61	2.98	-	2.92	3.43	3.42
Oats	Bu.	1.40	1.57	1.52	1.49	1.47	1.64
Barley	Bu.	1.74	1.87	-	2.30	2.41	2.60
Rye	Bu.	2.21	-	-	2.19	2.39	-
Sorghum Grains	Cwt.	4.45	4.16	-	4.15	4.14	4.29
Soybeans	Bu.	5.04	4.88	5.89	4.90	4.87	6.16
Cotton	Lb.	.376	.590	-	.369	.573	.594
Wool	Lb.	-	-	-	.491	.695	.690
Hogs	Cwt.	46.80	48.10	49.10	47.30	47.50	49.10
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	25.00	31.10	30.80	38.50	36.90	36.30
Veal Calves	Cwt.	27.00	40.60	37.20	29.70	38.80	37.90
Milk Cows	Hd.	305.00	325.00	320.00	413.00	487.00	479.00
Com'l. Broilers	Lb.	.250	.245	.250	.274	.247	.243
Turkeys	Lb.	.370	.350	.350	.323	.320	.314
Eggs 1/	Doz.	.546	.607	.613	.457	.555	.538
Milk, Whlse	Cwt.	9.85	10.40	10.30	7.94	9.23	9.14
Potatoes	Cwt.	2/7.00	-	5.00	6.16	5.26	5.43
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt.	-	9.30	-	16.50	10.60	9.55
Apples, Com'l.	Lbs.	-	-	-	.153	.093	.071
Hay, All	Ton	56.50	54.50	-	53.60	64.80	59.60
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	58.00	57.00	-	56.70	70.20	64.00
Other	Ton	56.50	54.50	-	45.30	48.00	47.70

1/ Average of all eggs sold by farmers including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail by farmers. 2/ Revised. * Preliminary.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

TYPE OF FEED	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	June 15 1975	May 15 1976	June 15 1976	June 15 1975	May 15 1976	June 15 1976
	Per Ton - Dollars					
Mixed Dairy Feed						
14% Protein	135.00	137.00	143.00	130.00	133.00	137.00
16% Protein	137.00	138.00	145.00	130.00	137.00	143.00
32% Protein	162.00	164.00	172.00	168.00	177.00	193.00
Poultry Feeds						
Chick Starter	163.00	163.00	166.00	163.00	164.00	179.00
Broiler Grower	178.00	173.00	177.00	162.00	161.00	172.00
Laying Feed 1/	150.00	148.00	151.00	144.00	146.00	156.00
Turkey Grower 1/	160.00	169.00	172.00	165.00	165.00	178.00
	Per 100 Lbs. - Dollars					
Grain By-Products						
Bran	7.60	7.30	7.40	7.12	7.41	7.44
Middlings	7.30	7.20	7.40	6.93	7.24	7.31
Corn Meal	7.30	6.80	6.90	6.92	6.66	6.97
High Protein Feeds						
Cottonseed Meal 41%	9.30	9.50	10.00	8.72	9.60	10.40
Soybean Meal 44%	8.80	9.60	11.00	8.48	9.34	11.50

1/ Complete ration feeds which are fed without further mixing or supplementations.

MAY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER DOWN

Commercial slaughter of livestock in North Carolina during May 1976 totaled 43,908,000 pounds live weight, down 3 percent from May last year. Cattle slaughtered during the month were down 6 percent from a year earlier to 15,400 head. The live weight of these cattle at 13,875,000 pounds was down 5 percent. Calves killed during May totaled 500 head and a live weight of 151,000 pounds. Hogs slaughtered decreased 2 percent from last year to 134,000 head and live weight was down 3 percent. There was no sheep and lamb slaughter reported for May.

Commercial production of red meat in the United States totaled over 2.9 billion pounds in May, 2 percent above a year ago, but 10 percent below May 1974. Total red meat output for January - May 1976 was 4 percent above 1975. Commercial meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER 1/

SPECIES	MAY				JANUARY THROUGH MAY			
	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thous. Head		*Thous. Lbs.*		*Thous. Head*		*Thous. Lbs.*	
				NORTH CAROLINA				
Cattle	16.4	15.4	14,580	13,875	79.1	92.0	70,016	83,110
Calves	.6	.5	133	151	2.4	3.5	584	857
Sheep & Lambs	.1	-	10	-	.2	.2	17	20
Hogs	137.0	134.0	30,688	29,882	725.0	724.0	162,578	162,914
TOTAL	154.1	149.9	45,411	43,908	806.7	819.7	233,195	246,901
	Million Head		*Million Lbs.*		*Million Head*		*Million Lbs.*	
				UNITED STATES				
Cattle	3.1	3.2	3,165	3,313	16.1	17.5	16,348	17,796
Calves	.4	.4	106	100	1.8	2.2	506	569
Sheep & Lambs	.6	.4	64	48	3.2	2.8	338	302
Hogs	5.7	5.3	1,363	1,271	31.2	28.9	7,415	6,856
TOTAL	9.8	9.3	4,698	4,732	52.3	51.4	24,607	25,523

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

N. C. FARROWINGS *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

Sows farrowed during March-May 1976 totaled 112,000 sows, an increase of 20 percent from the 93,000 that farrowed during the same period of 1975. Litter size averaged 7.5 pigs compared with 7.6 pigs per litter a year earlier. The March-May pig crop totaled 840,000 pigs, up 19 percent. Twenty percent more sows farrowed during December 1975-February 1976 than during the same period a year ago.

Inventory of hogs and pigs on June 1, 1976 in the U. S. is estimated at 52.6 million head, 9 percent above last year but 11 percent less than June 1, 1974. This is the second lowest June 1 total since 1965.

The December 1975-May 1976 pig crop in the U. S. totaled 41.4 million, 16 percent above last year's small pig crop but 8 percent less than two years ago. This crop is the second smallest since 1937.

(See N. C. Farrowings, Page 5)

N. C. FARROWINGS (Cont'd. From Page 4)

A total of 5.7 million sows farrowed during this period -- 14 percent more than a year earlier. Litter size was the highest since 1972 averaging 7.27 pigs during the past six months compared with 7.15 the previous year.

Hog producers in the U. S. intend to farrow 5.8 million sows during June-November 1976. This is an increase of 17 percent from the corresponding period in 1975 and 6 percent above the same six-month period in 1974.

These intentions, along with projections of litter size, indicate a pig crop of 42.1 million. If these intentions are realized the pig crop would be 18 percent more than the June-November crop of a year ago and 8 percent more than 1974 and about equal to 1973.

HOGS AND PIGS -- JUNE 1, 1976 REPORT: Number on Farms, Sows Farrowing, and Pig Crop, 1975-1976

ITEM	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	1975	1976	1976 As % Of 1975	1975	1976	1976 As % Of 1975
	Thousand Head		Percent	Thousand Head		Percent
NUMBER ON FARMS JUNE 1:						
All Hogs and Pigs.....	1,660	1,950	117	48,165	52,643	109
Kept for Breeding....	266	312	117	7,405	8,241	111
Market.....	1,394	1,638	110	40,760	44,402	109
Market Hogs and Pigs By Weight Groups:						
Under 60 Pounds.....	631	740	117	18,502	21,039	114
60-119 Pounds.....	374	436	117	9,974	10,849	109
120-179 Pounds.....	233	284	122	6,909	7,167	104
180-219 Pounds.....	117	140	120	4,298	4,336	101
220 Pounds and Over..	39	38	97	1,077	1,011	94
NUMBER ON FARMS-DEC. 1: 1/						
All Hogs and Pigs.....	1,890	1,900	101	55,062	49,602	90
Kept for Breeding....	274	304	111	7,416	7,634	103
Market.....	1,616	1,596	99	47,646	41,968	88
SOWS FARROWING:						
December 1/-February...	97	116	120	2,159	2,454	114
March-May.....	93	112	120	2,810	3,235	115
December 1/-May.....	190	228	120	4,969	5,689	114
June-August.....	94	2/116	123	2,507	-	-
September-November.....	83	2/ 95	114	2,452	-	-
June-November.....	177	2/211	119	4,959	2/5,811	117
PIG CROP:						
December 1/-February...	679	824	121	-	-	-
March-May.....	707	840	119	-	-	-
December 1/-May.....	1,386	1,664	120	35,534	41,379	116
June-November.....	1,283	-	-	35,772	3/42,130	118
PIGS PER LITTER:		Number			Number	
December 1/-February...	7.00	7.10	101	-	-	-
March-May.....	7.60	7.50	99	-	-	-
December 1/-May	7.29	7.30	100	7.15	7.27	102
June-November.....	7.25	-	-	7.21	3/7.25	101

1/ December preceding year. 2/ Intentions. 3/ Average number of pigs per litter with allowance for trend used to compute indicated June-November pig crop.

BROILER HATCH UP, EGG TYPE HATCH DOWN

Commercial hatcheries in North Carolina produced 33,339,000 chicks during May 1976, an increase of 17 percent from the same month a year ago. The May hatch consisted of 32,570,000 broiler-type chicks, up 18 percent from a year earlier, and 769,000 egg-type chicks, down 11 percent from May 1975.

For all the United States the May hatch was up 12 percent for broiler-type chicks and down 1 percent for egg-type chicks.

CHICKS HATCHED -- MAY

STATE	BROILER-TYPE		EGG-TYPE		ALL TYPES	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands					
NORTH CAROLINA	27,667	32,570	861	769	28,528	33,339
South Carolina	1,970	2,554	1,016	1,021	2,986	3,575
Georgia	39,429	43,190	4,088	4,198	43,517	47,388
Florida	6,764	8,138	3,274	3,437	10,038	11,575
Delaware	12,707	15,348	1/	1/	12,707	15,348
Maryland	18,728	19,032	1/	1/	18,728	19,032
Virginia	7,608	8,417	769	588	8,377	9,005
UNITED STATES	285,117	319,521	47,989	47,632	333,106	367,153

1/ Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations.

POULT HATCH INCREASES

The U. S. commercial hatch of turkey poults during May 1976, at 20.2 million, was 6 percent above a year earlier. The hatch of heavy breeds was up 5 percent from the same month last year to 18.4 million poults and light breed poults hatched were up 18 percent to 1.8 million.

The number of turkey eggs in incubators on June 1, 1976, at 28.5 million, was 6 percent above last year. Eggs for heavy breed turkeys were up 5 percent from last year and light breeds were up 17 percent.

POULTS HATCHED -- MAY

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS (U.S.)	HEAVY BREEDS 1/		LIGHT BREEDS 2/		ALL BREEDS	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands					
North Atlantic	503	432	79	84	582	516
East North Central	2,641	2,649	54	65	2,695	2,714
West North Central	6,178	6,600	885	1,067	7,063	7,667
South Atlantic	2,535	2,803	307	367	2,842	3,170
South Central	1,865	1,954	3	0	1,868	1,954
West	3,846	3,929	198	221	4,044	4,150
UNITED STATES	17,568	18,367	1,526	1,804	19,094	20,171

1/ Includes birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is 12 pounds or over. 2/ Includes birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is less than 12 pounds.

EGGS (Cont'd. From Page 1)

The nation's laying flock produced 5,452 million eggs during May, up slightly from May 1975. Layers on hand during May at 270 million were down 1 percent from a year earlier. The average rate of lay during the month was 2,020 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago. (See Table, Page 7.)

NUMBER OF LAYERS AND EGG PRODUCTION -- MAY

STATE	LAYERS ON HAND		EGGS PER 100 LAYERS		TOTAL EGGS PRODUCED	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands		*Number*		*Millions*	
NORTH CAROLINA	11,050	11,300	2,012	2,040	222	231
Virginia	3,191	3,170	1,981	1,996	63	63
South Carolina	5,703	4,685	2,055	2,139	117	100
Georgia	22,100	22,226	1,903	2,093	421	465
Florida	11,532	11,517	2,003	2,049	231	236
UNITED STATES	272,424	269,939	1,991	2,020	5,425	5,452

CROP ACREAGES: North Carolina and United States, 1974-76

CROP	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	1974	1975	Indicated June 30, 1976	1974	1975	Indicated June 30, 1976
	Thousands					
Corn: Planted All Purposes.....	1,720	1,700	2,100	77,787	77,902	84,092
Harvested For Grain.....	1,570	1,540	1,940	65,357	66,905	72,435
Wheat: Planted All Purposes 1/.	310	345	300	52,354	56,163	57,747
Harvested For Grain 1/..	275	300	260	47,043	51,544	49,167
Oats: Planted All Purposes.....	160	165	185	17,967	17,386	17,559
Harvested For Grain.....	85	85	95	13,206	13,650	13,076
Barley: Planted All Purposes...	70	70	75	8,994	9,526	9,247
Harvested For Grain....	60	60	65	8,168	8,711	8,373
Rye: Planted All Purposes.....	115	125	130	3,200	3,166	3,038
Harvested For Grain.....	20	20	20	897	814	869
Sorghums: Planted All Purposes.	110	110	125	17,676	18,275	18,398
Harvested For Grain..	80	80	90	13,876	15,484	14,782
Soybeans: Planted All Purposes.	1,475	1,500	1,200	53,507	54,577	48,972
Harvested For Beans..	1,420	1,420	1,150	52,368	53,606	48,172
Peanuts: Planted All Purposes..	168	167	168	1,520	1,532	1,540
Harvested For Nuts....	166	165	166	1,472	1,504	1,512
Cotton: Planted 2/.....	158	56	70	13,616	9,423	11,655
Harvested 2/.....	145	53	Aug. 12	12,484	8,730	Aug. 12
Tobacco: Type 11.....	152	179	176	214	247	245
Type 12.....	188	229	200	188	229	200
Type 13.....	50	62	51	130	152	128
All Flue-Cured.....	390	470	427	616	717	655
Type 31.....	8.0	9.5	9.0	260.8	282.2	279.1
All Types.....	398.0	479.5	436.0	962.6	1086.4	1022.7
Hay: All Harvested.....	325	325	350	60,571	61,863	61,079
Alfalfa.....	13	13	15	26,817	27,057	26,647
All Other.....	312	312	335	33,754	34,806	34,432
Sweet Potatoes: Planted.....	30	32	35	125.6	122.0	124.2
Harvested.....	29	31	34	121.7	118.5	120.8
Irish Potatoes: Planted.....	17.8	16.6	17.7	240.6	206.2	223.0
Harvested.....	17.5	16.0	17.4	236.7	200.2	220.0

1/ U. S. includes Winter, Durum and Other Spring. 2/ U. S. acreages include American-Pima.

CATTLE AND HOG FEEDING EXPAND

Cattle and hog feeding in the U. S. is expanding from depressed 1975 levels. However, further increases in feeding will depend to a large extent on crop conditions this summer which will determine this year's feed grain crop and the resultant cost of feed.

While feed supply forecasts are still very tentative, early indications point to a record corn crop and prospects for a sizable increase in feed grain supplies available to livestock feeders through the 1976/77 feeding year. If current domestic and world crop expectations materialize and feeding costs trend lower, fed beef production in 1977 could reach or exceed 1972's record level, about offsetting the anticipated downtrend in production from nonfed cattle. Also, the expansion underway in farrowings this year would extend into 1977, perhaps boosting next year's pork output near or above 1974's level.

Hog slaughter and pork production through the spring have been running somewhat above earlier expectations. While this might suggest hog inventories are increasing faster than indicated by earlier pig crops, an unusually mild winter in the Midwest and favorable weight gains may also be pushing hogs to market sooner than normal. April-June commercial pork production may total only slightly below both first quarter and depressed year-earlier levels.

Seasonal declines in hog slaughter around midyear will likely be smaller than usual this year, followed by substantial increases in slaughter by early fall. The 13 to 15 percent increase in second half pork output currently expected would raise production for the year about 5 to 7 percent over 1975's 10-year low. Hog prices have been remarkably stable for the past 7 months, fluctuating mostly between $47 to $50 per 100 pounds. Prices could rise seasonally into the low $50's around midyear before trending lower through most of the second half.

A strong recovery in pork production during 1977 is likely if this year's corn crop meets expectations. Planned expansion for the 1976 fall pig crop stems from the favorable returns to producers over the past year and a half. The stability in the hog market in recent months at a profitable level is another encouraging factor. If domestic and world feed crops are large and corn prices begin to slip later this year, lower returns from cash grain sales may also stimulate pork output from those hog producers who typically grow their own feed. If so, continued expansion in the 1977 spring pig crop may raise pork production next year to near or above 1972 and 1974 levels -- a gain of around 15 percent from 1976.

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NORTH CAROLINA Farm Report

Federal - State
Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

No. 709 July 20, 1976

CROPS RESPONDING WELL TO FAVORABLE WEATHER

Field crops generally responded well to favorable growing conditions the past month. Precipitation during June was above normal and temperatures averaged near normal. As of July 10, soil moisture averaged 5 percent short, 75 percent adequate and 20 percent surplus.

Prospects for corn are the best ever. The crop generally is in good to excellent condition, Statewide. Much of the acreage in the major producing Coastal Plains region has reached the blister to milk stage of maturity. All other field crops are in mostly good condition except cotton which is mostly fair to good. Tobacco harvest is getting well underway, especially in the Eastern and Border Belts.

Harvest of small grain was delayed by wet weather during June in many of the major producing Piedmont areas. Combining was nearing completion in early July. Yields are down significantly for wheat, oats and barley.

N. C. CORN PROSPECTS SET RECORD

All indications point to the best corn crop ever this year in N. C. As of July 1, the fast growing crop was found in good to excellent condition in the major producing areas. Production is forecast at 163 million bushels, 40 percent more than the previous record high production in 1974 and 58 percent above last year's total. Corn acreage for grain harvest at 1,940,000 acres is up 26 percent from 1975 and is the largest since 1955.

The crop was planted earlier than both last year and the average. Drought conditions in April caused some uneven

(See Corn, Page 3)

GOOD PROSPECTS FOR FLUE-CURED CROP

Based on conditions around July 1, prospects look good for the N. C. flue-cured tobacco crop in all belts. The first early season forecast of 1976 flue-cured production is 887 million pounds, 47 million pounds less than last year's total.

N. C. flue-cured acreage is projected at 427,000 acres, down 9 percent from 1975. An average yield of 2,076 pounds per acre is expected, up 4 percent from 1975's average of 1,987 pounds.

The crop got off to an uneven start because of cold, dry conditions during the April and early May transplanting period. But adequate moisture combined with warm days and nights during recent weeks have spurred growth resulting in more uniformity of plant size. The crop is maturing at approximately the same pace in all belts.

Farm activities concerning tobacco have included topping and applying sucker control, with a few fields in all belts being primed during the last week of June. If favorable weather continues for the next few weeks, both good yields and excellent quality are likely.

N. C. burley tobacco acreage is estimated at 9,000 acres, down 5 percent from 1975.

U. S. flue-cured production is forecast at 1,318 million pounds--down 7 percent from the 1975 total. Acres for harvest are down nearly 9 percent at 655,100. An average yield of 2,011 pounds per acre is expected--up 38 pounds from 1975.

Burley acreage for harvest in the U. S. is expected to total 279,100 acres this year compared to 282,150 acres in 1975.

(See Table, Page 3.)

WINTER WHEAT DOWN

Winter wheat production in North Carolina is forecast at 6,500,000 bushels, 2 percent less than the June 1 outlook and 30 percent below the 1975 crop. Acres for harvest are estimated at 260,000, down 15,000 from the earlier estimate. The yield per acre forecast at 25 bushels is up 1 bushel from the previous forecast but down 6 bushels from 1975. Harvest was nearing completion as of July 10.

Winter wheat production in the U. S. is forecast at 1,530 million bushels, 7 percent below the record 1975 crop but otherwise the largest of record and 10 percent above the 1974 crop. The decrease from last year is primarily caused by early season drought conditions in the major Southern Plains wheat producing areas. The increase of 8 percent from the June 1 estimate results from an increase in acreage for harvest as well as increased yield expectations. Yield per harvested acre for the Nation is expected to average 31.1 bushels. This compares with 32.0 bushels in 1975 and the relatively low yield of 29.6 bushels in 1974.

N. C. OATS DOWN SLIGHTLY U. S. LOWEST SINCE 1881

As of July 1, production of oats in N. C. is forecast at 4,180,000 bushels, down 2 percent from the prior year. Estimated harvested acres total 95,000, up 12 percent or 10,000 acres from 1975. Yields are expected to average 44 bushels per acre, down 6 bushels from 1975.

Adverse weather in the spring damaged the crop and rains during June frequently interrupted harvest. As of July 3, about 90 percent of the oats had been harvested, 5 percent less than this time last year.

U. S. production of oats is forecast at 499 million bushels, 24 percent less than 1975, 19 percent below 1974, and the lowest production since 1881. Yield per harvested acre is expected to average 38.2 bushels, down almost 10 bushels from 1975 and 8.3 bushels below 1974. The 1976 yield is expected to be the lowest since 1959. A slightly smaller acreage intended for grain than a year earlier also contributed to the lower production.

SMALLER BARLEY CROP EXPECTED

Barley production in N. C. for 1976 is estimated at 2.6 million bushels, down 4 percent from the 1975 production of 2.7 million bushels. Estimated harvested acres are set at 65,000, up 8 percent from the previous year.

Dry weather conditions during the entire month of April damaged the crop and consequently lowered yield expectations to 40 bushels per acre. This represents a decrease of 11 percent from last year's yield. Wet weather in late June and early July damaged the quality of the grain and dealyed harvest.

U. S. barley production is expected to total 311 million bushels--down 19 percent from the 1975 figure. Both harvested acres at 8.4 million and yield at 37.2 bushels per acre are down from the comparable 1975 figures of 8.7 million acres and 44.0 bushels per acre.

RYE PRODUCTION UNCHANGED

Reports indicate that the N. C. rye crop apparently was not damaged to the extent other small grains were from the adverse weather conditions in early spring. Production is expected to total 360,000 bushels from 20,000 acres yielding an average of 18 bushels per acre.

Production of rye in the U. S. for 1976 is forecast at 17.0 million bushels, down 5 percent from the 1975 crop of 17.9 million bushels. Yield is expected to average 19.5 bushels per acre, 2.5 bushels below last year and 2.0 bushels below the 1974 average. For the 29 States estimating rye yields, 14 expect a decrease, 9 expect no change and 6 expect an increase from last year.

COTTON ACREAGE UP 25 PERCENT

North Carolina cotton growers planted 70,000 acres in 1976, a fourth more than last year's 56,000 acres but still the second lowest of record.

Dry weather during the planting season delayed germination and caused some uneven stands but the crop generally is in fair to good condition.

U. S. growers planted 11.7 million acres of cotton, 23 percent more than 1975 but 15 percent below 1974.

(See Table, Page 8.)

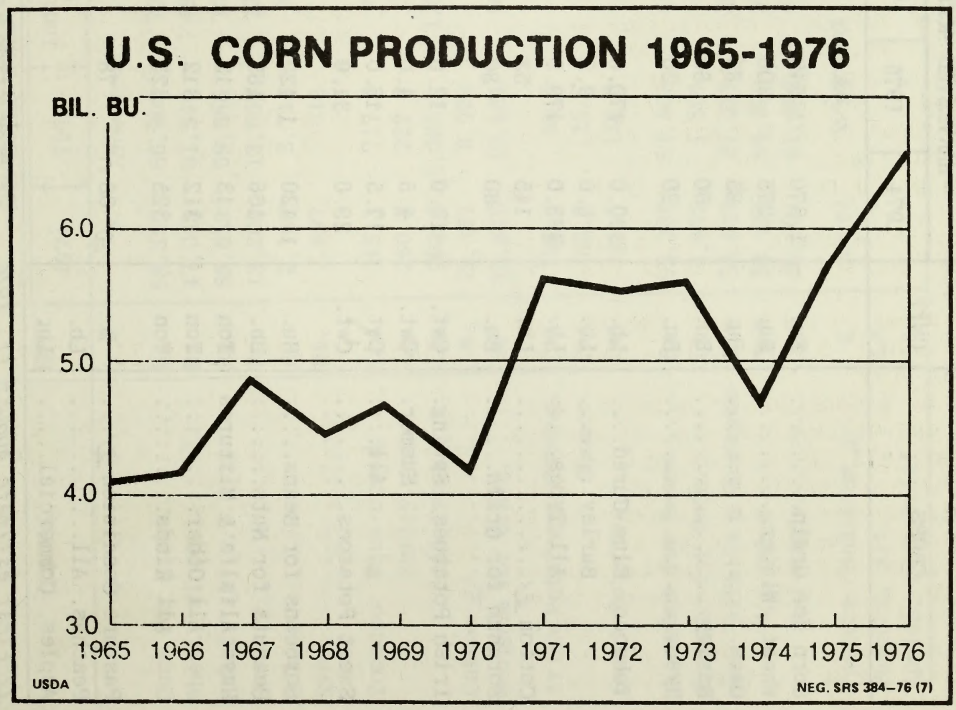
FLUE-CURED TOBACCO, BY TYPE, JULY 1, 1976

STATE	TYPE	HARVESTED ACRES			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
		1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976
		Thousands			*Pounds*			*Thousand Pounds*		
Virginia	11	62.0	68.0	69.0	1,805	1,650	1,850	111,910	112,200	127,650
N. C.	11	152.0	179.0	176.0	1,790	1,710	1,900	272,080	306,090	334,400
N. C.	12	188.0	229.0	200.0	2,110	2,155	2,200	396,680	493,495	440,000
N. C.	13	50.0	62.0	51.0	2,030	2,165	2,200	101,500	134,230	112,200
N. C. Total	11-13	390.0	470.0	427.0	1,975	1,987	2,076	770,260	933,815	886,600
S. C.	13	80.0	90.0	77.0	2,150	2,100	2,075	172,000	189,000	159,775
Georgia	14	72.0	75.0	68.0	2,235	2,010	1,700	160,920	150,750	115,600
Florida	14	11.7	13.5	13.5	2,145	2,080	2,000	25,097	28,080	27,000
Alabama	14	.6	.7	.6	1,810	1,700	1,700	1,140	1,190	1,088
U. S. TOTAL	11-14	616.3	717.2	655.1	2,014	1,973	2,011	1,241,327	1,415,035	1,317,713

CORN *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

fields, but frequent rain in June has boosted development to the blister and milk stage. The 1976 average yield per acre is forecast at 84 bushels, 17 bushels greater than a year earlier and 2 bushels ahead of the previous record high yield of 82 bushels in 1973.

U. S. corn production, forecast at a record 6,553 million bushels based on conditions as of July 1, is a record 14 percent larger than the 1975 crop and 41 percent above the short 1974 crop. The 1976 yield per acre is indicated at 90.5 bushels, 4.3 bushels above 1975 but below the 1972 record yield of 97.1 bushels.



NORTH CAROLINA: Estimated Acreage, Yield and Production Of Crops, July 1, 1976, With Comparisons

CROPS	UNIT	HARVESTED ACRES			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
		1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976
		Thousands							*Thousands*	
Corn for Grain.....	Bu.	1,570	1,540	1,940	74.0	67.0	84.0	116,180	103,180	162,960
Wheat, Winter.....	Bu.	275	300	260	36.0	31.0	25.0	9,900	9,300	6,500
Oats.....	Bu.	85	85	95	53.0	50.0	44.0	4,505	4,250	4,180
Barley.....	Bu.	60	60	65	46.0	45.0	40.0	2,760	2,700	2,600
Rye.....	Bu.	20	20	20	20.0	18.0	18.0	400	360	360
Tobacco: Flue-Cured....	Lb.	390.0	470.0	427.0	1,975	1,987	2,076	770,260	933,815	886,600
Burley.....	Lb.	8.0	9.5	9.0	2,370	2,440	1/	18,960	23,180	1/
All Types.....	Lb.	398.0	479.5	436.0	1,983	1,996	1/	789,220	956,995	1/
Cotton 2/.....	Lb.	145	53	1/	440	412	1/	133	46	1/
Sorghum for Grain.....	Bu.	80	80	90	52.0	51.0	1/	4,160	4,080	1/
Irish Potatoes: Spring.	Cwt.	13.0	12.0	13.0	165	160	145	2,145	1,920	1,885
Summer.	Cwt.	4.5	4.0	4.4	135	120	130	608	480	572
All....	Cwt.	17.5	16.0	17.4	157	150	141	2,753	2,400	2,457
Sweet Potatoes.....	Cwt.	29.0	31.0	34.0	135	145	1/	3,915	4,495	1/
Soybeans for Beans.....	Bu.	1,420	1,420	1,150	21.5	23.0	1/	30,530	32,660	1/
Peanuts for Nuts.....	Lb.	166	165	166	2,315	2,265	1/	384,290	373,725	1/
Hay: Alfalfa & Mixtures	Ton	13	13	15	2.35	2.60	1/	31	34	1/
All Other.....	Ton	312	312	335	1.60	1.60	1/	499	499	1/
All Kinds.....	Ton	325	325	350	1.63	1.64	1/	530	533	1/
Pasture Condition 3/...	%	4/ 88	78	87	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peaches, All.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	30,000	15,000
Apples, Commercial.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	295,000	280,000	275,000

1/ First estimate August 11, 1976. 2/ Production in 480-lb. NWB. 3/ Data shown for pastures represent condition, not acres. 4/ 1965-74 average condition on July 1.

UNITED STATES: Estimated Acreage, Yield and Production Of Crops, July 1, 1976, With Comparisons

CROPS	UNIT	HARVESTED ACRES			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
		1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976
		Thousands							*Thousands*	
Corn for Grain.....	Bu.	65,357	66,905	72,435	71.4	86.2	90.5	4,663,631	5,766,991	6,552,665
Wheat, Winter.....	Bu.	47,043	51,544	49,167	29.6	32.0	31.1	1,390,144	1,651,209	1,530,124
Wheat, All.....	Bu.	65,613	69,656	70,215	27.4	30.6	29.1	1,796,187	2,133,803	2,040,456
Oats.....	Bu.	13,206	13,650	13,076	46.5	48.1	38.2	613,777	656,862	498,938
Barley.....	Bu.	8,168	8,711	8,373	37.2	44.0	37.2	304,112	382,980	311,417
Rye.....	Bu.	897	814	869	21.5	22.0	19.5	19,293	17,875	16,957
Tobacco: Flue-cured....	Lb.	616.3	717.2	655.1	2,014	1,973	2,011	1,241,327	1,415,035	1,317,713
Burley.....	Lb.	260.8	282.2	279.1	2,350	2,265	1/	612,649	639,056	1/
All Types.....	Lb.	962.6	1,086.4	1,022.7	2,067	2,011	1/	1,989,728	2,184,237	1/
Cotton 2/.....	Lb.	12,567	8,796	1/	441	453	1/	11,540	8,302	1/
Sorghum for Grain.....	Bu.	13,876	15,484	14,782	45.3	49.0	1/	629,222	758,454	1/
Irish Potatoes: Spring.	Cwt.	103.4	84.5	99.4	242	237	245	25,032	19,994	24,330
Summer.	Cwt.	133.3	115.7	120.6	191	181	186	25,421	20,898	22,437
Sweet Potatoes.....	Cwt.	121.7	118.5	120.8	114	114	1/	13,921	13,642	1/
Soybeans for Beans.....	Bu.	52,368	53,606	48,172	23.2	28.4	1/	1,214,802	1,521,370	1/
Peanuts for Nuts.....	Lb.	1,472	1,504	1,512	2,491	2,565	1/	3,667,604	3,857,122	1/
Hay: Alfalfa & Mixtures	Ton	26,817	27,057	26,647	2.78	2.87	1/	74,672	77,761	1/
All Other.....	Ton	33,754	34,806	34,432	1.55	1.58	1/	52,471	55,156	1/
All Kinds.....	Ton	60,571	61,863	61,079	2.10	2.15	1/	127,143	132,917	1/
Pasture Condition 3/...	%	4/ 84	88	75	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peaches, All.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,740,700	2,818,000	3,115,000
Apples, Commercial.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,484,000	7,087,100	6,113,200

1/ First estimate August 11, 1976. 2/ U. S. includes American-Pima. Production in 480-lb. NWB. 3/ Data shown for pastures represent condition, not acres. 4/ 1965-74 average condition on July 1.

APPLE CROP SMALLER

N. C. commercial apple production is forecast at 275 million pounds, 2 percent less than the 280 million pounds utilized in 1975. Production prospects range from poor to good across the state but apples in the major producing areas are in good condition. While some late season freezes damaged the crop to varying degrees, overall freeze damage is not expected to be serious.

Harvest of some early varieties is about finished in a few counties and just getting underway in others. Size and quality have been good. Later varieties are heavy loaded and pruning is still taking place.

U. S. apple production is forecast at 6.1 billion pounds, 14 percent below last year's record crop and 6 percent less than was utilized in 1974.

SUMMER IRISH POTATO CROP LARGER

The 1976 summer production of Irish potatoes in North Carolina is forecast at 572,000 hundredweight, up 19 percent from 1975. Acres for harvest are estimated at 4,400, up 400 from last year. The yield per acre is expected to average 130 cwt., up 10 cwt. from a year earlier.

The first forecast of summer potato production in the U. S. for 1976 at 22.4 million cwt. is 7 percent above the 20.9 million cwt. harvested in 1975 but 12 percent below 1974 production. Acres for harvest in 1976 are estimated at 120,600 acres, 4 percent above the 115,700 acres harvested in 1975. The average yield per acre is forecast at 186 cwt. compared with 181 in 1975 and 191 in 1974.

LESS PEACHES IN STATE MORE IN U. S.

Peach production in North Carolina in 1976 is forecast at 15 million pounds, unchanged from the June 1 forecast but down from 30 million in 1975. The Tar Heel crop was damaged by several hard freezes in early spring. By July 10, over half the crop had been picked. Harvest this season is about two weeks earlier than usual.

The Nation's 1976 peach crop is forecast at 3,115 million pounds, off 2 percent from the June 1 forecast but still well above the utilized crops of recent years. Excluding California's Clingstone production (used mostly for canning), the remaining output will total 1,505 million pounds, or 9 percent more than was utilized in 1975. In California, the Clingstone crop is forecast at 1,610 million pounds, unchanged from the June 24 report, but 12 percent above the 1975 utilized crop.

PEACH PRODUCTION

STATE	1974	1975	Indicated July 1, 1976
	Million Pounds		
N. C.	20.0	30.0	15.0
S. C.	215.0	210.0	245.0
Ga.	45.0	95.0	210.0
Ala.	9.0	7.0	15.0
Miss.	7.0	7.0	15.0
Ark.	20.0	35.0	42.0
La.	6.3	3.0	6.5
Okla.	.1	6.8	7.0
Texas	18.0	16.0	23.0
Total 9 States	340.4	409.8	578.5
U. S.	2,892.7	2,818.0	3,115.0

N. C. FRESH MARKET VEGETABLES

Growers in N. C. expect to harvest 4,300 acres of snap beans during the summer of 1976, representing an increase of 13 percent over last year's acreage.

The sweet corn crop is anticipated to be harvested from 5,400 acres, up 100 acres from 1975.

Summer cabbage is estimated at 4,000 acres, up 300 acres or 8 percent above the previous year.

Acreage for the summer tomato crop is unchanged from last year's estimate of 1,900 acres.

Watermelon growers expect to harvest 9,000 acres, up 1,000 acres or 13 percent more than 1975.

Summer acreage of cucumbers is placed at 4,100 acres, 400 acres or 11 percent more than last season's acreage.

The green pepper summer acreage is projected at 7,700 acres, off 300 acres from the 1975 figure.

JUNE MILK PRODUCTION UP

North Carolina dairy farms produced an estimated 139 million pounds of milk during June, an increase of 5 percent from a year earlier and up 10 percent from June 1974. Milk production per cow totaled a record for June of 900 pounds, 40 pounds above June 1975. Estimated milk cows on farms, at 154,000, increased 1,000 head from June last year. Grain and other concentrates fed daily per cow averaged 14.5 pounds as of July 1, 1976, down one half pound from a year earlier.

U.S. milk production in June 1976 of 10,865 million pounds was 4.1 percent above a year earlier and 2.4 percent above June 1974. This increase resulted from a record high average production per cow for June of 982 pounds -- up 46 pounds from a year earlier and 35 pounds above June 1974. Milk cows during June, at 11,061,000 head, were unchanged from last month but off 1 percent from a year ago.

MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION -- JUNE

STATE	Milk Cows On Farms 1/			Milk Per Cow 2/			Milk Production 2/			
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1976 As % Of 1975
	Thousands			*Pounds*			*Million Pounds*			*Percent*
N. C.	152	153	154	830	860	900	126	132	139	105
Va.	159	158	161	920	950	930	146	150	150	100
Md.	135	140	143	926	920	925	125	129	132	102
Ga.	131	130	128	730	730	815	96	95	104	109
Fla.	200	198	198	795	840	850	159	166	168	101
U. S.	11,204	11,153	11,061	947	936	982	10,614	10,435	10,865	104

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

SOYBEAN DEMAND AT RECORD HIGH

Soybean demand in the U. S. has strengthened considerably this marketing year in response to recoveries in economic activity and expanding livestock and poultry industries both in this country and abroad. U. S. disappearance of soybeans during September-May 1975/76 was up nearly a third from last year's depressed level as both crushings and exports were at record rates. As a result, carryover stocks this September are now forecast at 200 million bushels (5.4 million metric tons), up slightly from September 1, 1975, but well below last fall's projection for a substantial buildup in soybean stocks.

Prices received by farmers for soybeans, after remaining relatively steady at about $4.50 per bushel during January-April, moved up to nearly $5 in May and increased further in June.

Soybean plantings were near completion in late June as farmers reseeded some abandoned cotton fields and also planted soybeans following the small grain harvest. The condition of the Nation's soybean crop is good. With average yields per acre and a slightly larger carryover of old-crop beans expected in September, soybean supplies in 1976/77 will be down about a tenth from this year's 1.7 billion bushels. With soybean demand likely exceeding output, a further drawdown in carryover stocks on September 1, 1977, is in prospect--possibly to around 100 million bushels, or less than 1-month's current requirement for crush and export.

Soybean crushings for 1975/76 are estimated at a record 865 million bushels, some 165 million more than last season. The crushing rate this year has been largely determined by rising meal requirements. Record livestock and poultry feeding of soybean meal is boosting the crush rate. Soybean oil use is up, but stocks are building.

COTTON ACREAGE REPORT, JULY 1, 1976

STATE	1974		1975		1976 1/	
	Planted	Harvested	Planted	Harvested	Planted	Planted % Of 1975
UPLAND	*Thousand Acres*					*Percent*
NORTH CAROLINA	158	145	56	53	70	125
South Carolina	310	292	107	103	190	178
Georgia	423	410	165	160	250	152
Tennessee	540	510	335	315	470	140
Alabama	600	585	400	370	480	120
Missouri	370	330	220	210	300	136
Mississippi	1,780	1,710	1,140	1,100	1,500	132
Arkansas	1,200	1,130	700	680	1,150	164
Louisiana	650	635	320	310	520	163
Oklahoma	570	547	360	295	350	97
Texas	5,200	4,400	4,350	3,900	4,900	113
New Mexico	151	140	95	85	95	100
Arizona	392	392	269	268	320	119
California	1,250	1,238	900	875	1,050	117
Other 2/	21.9	20.3	6.4	6.1	10.2	159
U. S. UPLAND 3/	13,616	12,484	9,423	8,730	11,655	124
U. S. Am. Pima 4/	83.5	82.3	69.2	65.9	56.0	81
U. S. All	13,699	12,567	9,493	8,796	11,711	123

1/ Estimates of harvested acres and production, to be released August 12. 2/ Virginia, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky and Nevada. 3/ Sum of State totals above. 4/ Includes total American Pima in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California, not included in individual state data above.

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NORTH CAROLINA Farm Report

Federal - State
Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

No. 710 August 6, 1976

CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETINGS DROP

During the first quarter of 1976 (January-April), North Carolina farmers received an estimated $429.8 million (rounded) from the marketing of farm products. This is 3 percent less than cash receipts during the similar period in 1975. Receipts from livestock and products, including poultry sold during the first quarter of 1976 totaled $338.7 million, up 12 percent from a year earlier. Receipts from crops, however, totaled $91.2 million; down 35 percent.

Keep in mind that livestock marketings are fairly evenly distributed throughout the year, while crop marketings are heavier during the last half of the year.

During all of 1975, the sale of the state's farm products returned producers $2,673 million compared with $2,573 million in 1974. Livestock receipts in 1975 were $996 million and crop receipts were $1,677 million.

Producers in the United States received an estimated $26.4 billion from farm marketings during January-April 1976, up 10 percent from last year. Livestock receipts, at 15.6 billion, increased 25 percent and crop receipts, at $10.8 billion, decreased 6 percent.

JUNE EGG PRODUCTION DOWN SLIGHTLY

North Carolina poultrymen produced an estimated 217 million eggs during June, down slightly from June 1975. The number of hens and pullets of laying age on hand during the month averaged 11,050,000 compared with

(See Egg Production, Page 5)

JULY PRICE INDEX DECLINES

The ''All Farm Products'' index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets during July is 172 (1967 = 100), down 3 points from June, but up 5 points from July 1975.

The July ''All Crops'' index, at 164, is down 4 points from June. The components most affecting this drop are tobacco which is down 11 points and commercial vegetables, down 14 points. Oil bearing crops rose 22 points.

The ''Livestock and Livestock Products'' index dropped 1 point from June. Meat animals, at an index of 215, were down 8 points. (See Table, Page 2.)

FARMLAND VALUES RISE SHARPLY

Farm real estate values continue to climb in North Carolina and the rest of the nation. For the Tar Heel State, farm real estate was valued at an average of $686 per acre on February 1, 1976, up 8 percent from the average of $638 on March 1, 1975. It was valued at $589 on March 1, 1974, $483 in 1973, and $407 in 1972.

Farmland values in the U. S. increased an average of 14 percent between March 1, 1975, and February 1, 1976, raising the average from $354 to $403 per acre. During the past 5 years, values across the nation have doubled, and they are expected to rise 8 to 10 percent during the year ending February 1, 1977. However, much depends upon U. S. crop production and export demand.

Corn Belt and Northern Plains States led the advance in land values.

(See Farmland, Page 7)

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UNCHANGED
PRICES PAID INDEX UNCHANGED

The Index of Prices Received by U.S. Farmers was unchanged from the revised June index at 196 percent of its January-December 1967 average during the month ended July 15, 1976. Higher prices for most crops, especially soybeans, and dairy products were offset by lower prices for meat animals. The index was 5 points (2½ percent) above a year earlier.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates for July 15 was 195, unchanged from a month earlier. Lower feeder livestock prices offset higher prices for feed, fuel and family living items. The index was 12 points (7 percent) above a year earlier.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARM PRICES INDEX NUMBERS

INDEX (1967 = 100)	July 15 1973	July 15 1974	July 15 1975	June 15 1976	July 15 1976
NORTH CAROLINA					
Prices Received: All Farm Products....	160	3/ 152	167	175	172
All Crops.....	147	3/ 150	153	168	164
Tobacco.....	130	129	133	152	141
Cotton.....	170	213	173	242	242
Oil Bearing.....	204	198	189	203	225
Grains.....	167	220	205	211	217
Commercial Vegetables.....	185	3/ 166	3/ 212	3/ 191	177
Fruits.....	135	3/ 145	187	165	206
Livestock and Livestock Products.....	183	3/ 154	190	188	187
Meat Animals.....	206	3/ 176	221	223	215
Poultry.....	190	143	187	179	182
Dairy.....	127	3/ 153	153	161	161
UNITED STATES					
Prices Received, All Farm Products.....	173	176	191	196	196
Prices Paid, Commodities & Services 1/.	3/ 151	3/ 172	183	195	195
Parity Ratio 2/.....	118	105	104	101	101

1/ Including Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid. 3/ Revised.

CROP PRICES GAIN, FEED PRICES UP

Average prices received for crops by Tar Heel farmers at local markets about mid-June were higher than a month earlier. (See Table, Page 3.) Corn increased 9 cents per bushel to $2.99. Oats was up 2 cents per bushel to $1.54 and soybeans, at $6.89 per bushel, jumped $1.00.

Prices received for livestock were mostly down. Hogs decreased $1.40 per hundredweight to $47.70. Beef cattle and veal calves were down $1.90 and $1.50 per hundredweight, respectively. Milk cows were up $10.00 per head.

Prices the state's farmers had to pay for feed during July were up. (See Table, Page 3.) Mixed dairy feed with 16 percent protein rose $2.00 per ton to $147.00, while 32 percent protein feed increased $13.00 to $185.00 per ton. Both broiler grower and turkey grower were up $4.00 per ton from last month. In the high protein feeds category, cottonseed meal (41 percent protein) rose 50 cents per hundredweight and soybean meal (44 percent protein) increased $1.50 per hundredweight from June.

COMMODITY PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		July 15 1975	June 15 1976	July 15 1976*	July 15 1975	June 15 1976	July 15 1976*
		Dollars					
Tobacco	Lb.	.870	-	.923	.893	1.055	.987
Corn	Bu.	2.84	2.90	2.99	2.72	2.74	2.82
Wheat	Bu.	2.77	-	-	3.33	3.42	3.33
Oats	Bu.	1.34	1.52	1.54	1.45	1.64	1.64
Barley	Bu.	1.73	-	-	2.35	2.60	2.51
Rye	Bu.	2.45	-	-	2.26	-	-
Sorghum Grains	Cwt.	4.44	-	-	4.25	4.29	4.53
Soybeans	Bu.	5.26	5.89	6.89	5.28	6.16	6.73
Cotton	Lb.	.430	-	-	.406	.594	.765
Wool	Lb.	-	-	-	.480	.690	.702
Hogs	Cwt.	52.30	49.10	47.70	53.90	49.10	47.70
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	24.40	30.80	28.90	35.20	36.30	33.50
Veal Calves	Cwt.	25.20	37.20	35.70	27.70	37.90	35.20
Milk Cows	Hd.	300.00	320.00	330.00	416.00	479.00	478.00
Com'l. Broilers	Lb.	.280	.250	.250	.297	.243	.254
Turkeys	Lb.	.350	.350	.350	.344	.314	.312
Eggs 1/	Doz.	.573	.613	.640	.465	.538	.555
Milk, Whlse	Cwt.	2/10.10	10.30	10.30	2/8.25	2/9.11	9.28
Potatoes	Cwt.	6.60	5.00	4.80	6.29	5.43	4.85
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt.	-	-	-	12.00	9.55	9.12
Apples, Com'l	Lb.	.076	-	.130	.144	.071	.095
Hay, All	Ton	55.50	-	-	51.20	59.60	59.00
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	55.50	-	-	54.40	64.00	63.50
Other	Ton	55.50	-	-	43.50	47.70	47.70

*1/ Average of all eggs sold by farmers including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail by farmers. 2/ Revised. *Preliminary.*

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

TYPE OF FEED	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	July 15 1975	June 15 1976	July 15 1976	July 15 1975	June 15 1976	July 15 1976
	Per Ton - Dollars					
Mixed Dairy Feed						
14% Protein	135.00	143.00	143.00	129.00	137.00	140.00
16% Protein	137.00	145.00	147.00	130.00	143.00	145.00
32% Protein	161.00	172.00	185.00	168.00	193.00	206.00
Poultry Feeds						
Chick Starter	170.00	166.00	176.00	164.00	179.00	187.00
Broiler Grower	175.00	177.00	181.00	161.00	172.00	181.00
Laying Feed 1/	152.00	151.00	163.00	145.00	156.00	162.00
Turkey Grower 1/	166.00	172.00	176.00	163.00	178.00	187.00
	Per 100 Lbs. - Dollars					
Grain By-Products						
Bran	7.30	7.40	7.70	7.06	7.44	7.60
Middlings	7.30	7.40	7.40	6.88	7.31	7.46
Corn Meal	7.20	6.90	7.10	6.97	6.97	7.20
High Protein Feeds						
Cottonseed Meal 41%	9.20	10.00	10.50	8.79	10.40	11.40
Soybean Meal 44%	8.70	11.00	12.50	8.57	11.50	12.50

1/ Complete ration feeds which are fed without further mixing or supplementations.

MORE CHICKS HATCHED

Commercial hatcheries in North Carolina produced 32,160,000 chicks during June 1976, up 17 percent from a year earlier. The June hatch was composed of 31,860,000 broiler-type and 300,000 egg-type chicks compared with 27,004,000 broiler-type and 588,000 egg-type chicks during June 1975.

For the nation, the June hatch was up 12 percent for broiler-type chicks and up 2 percent for egg-type chicks.

The number of broiler-type eggs in incubators on July 1 was up 13 percent from last year for the South Atlantic States and up 11 percent for the United States. The number of egg-type eggs in incubators on July 1 was down 9 percent in the South Atlantic States but up 1 percent for the nation.

CHICKS HATCHED -- JUNE

STATE	BROILER-TYPE		EGG-TYPE		ALL TYPES	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands					
North Carolina	27,004	31,860	588	300	27,592	32,160
South Carolina	1,850	2,531	617	888	2,467	3,419
Georgia	39,070	42,134	3,446	3,584	42,516	45,718
Florida	6,822	7,894	3,312	3,260	10,134	11,154
Delaware	12,143	15,215	1/	1/	12,143	15,215
Maryland	18,203	18,872	1/	1/	18,203	18,872
Virginia	7,401	8,174	677	564	8,078	8,738
UNITED STATES	274,695	307,680	40,854	41,859	315,549	349,539

1/ Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations.

U. S. POULT PRODUCTION UP 12 PERCENT

The U. S. commercial hatch of turkey poults during June 1976, at 19.6 million, was 12 percent above a year ago. The hatch of heavy breeds was up 10 percent from the same month last year to 17.7 million poults and light breed poults hatched were up 30 percent to 1.8 million.

The number of turkey eggs in incubators on July 1, 1976, at 23.0 million, was 5 percent above last year. Eggs set for heavy breed turkeys were up 4 percent from last year and light breeds were up 16 percent.

POULTS HATCHED -- JUNE

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS (U.S.)	HEAVY BREEDS 1/		LIGHT BREEDS 2/		ALL BREEDS	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands					
North Atlantic	377	363	53	86	430	449
East North Central	2,425	2,742	82	223	2,507	2,965
West North Central	5,420	6,075	907	1,061	6,327	7,136
South Atlantic	2,508	2,709	256	319	2,764	3,028
South Central	1,669	1,943	-	-	1,669	1,943
West	3,741	3,916	102	135	3,843	4,051
UNITED STATES	16,140	17,748	1,400	1,824	17,540	19,572

1/ Includes birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is 12 pounds or over. 2/ Includes birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is less than 12 pounds.

EGG PRODUCTION (Cont'd. From Page 1)

11,250,000 a year earlier. The rate of lay per 100 layers during June averaged 1,968, up 1 percent from June last year.

The nation's laying flock produced 5,264 million eggs during June, 1 percent more than in June 1975. Layers on hand during the month averaged 269 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. The average rate of lay was up 1 percent from June last year.

NUMBER OF LAYERS AND EGG PRODUCTION -- JUNE

STATE	LAYERS ON HAND		EGGS PER 100 LAYERS		TOTAL EGGS PRODUCED	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands		*Number*		*Millions*	
NORTH CAROLINA	11,250	11,050	1,941	1,968	218	217
Virginia	3,210	3,322	1,956	1,974	63	66
South Carolina	5,745	4,580	1,980	2,100	114	96
Georgia	21,877	22,173	1,866	2,019	408	448
Florida	11,413	11,583	1,944	1,917	222	222
UNITED STATES	270,552	268,591	1,933	1,960	5,230	5,264

PRODUCTION OF ICE CREAM INCREASES, COTTAGE CHEESE DROPS

Production of frozen dairy products (ice cream, sherbet milk, and ice milk) in North Carolina totaled 39,028,000 gallons in 1975, up 5 percent from the 37,224,000 gallons produced during 1974. Cottage cheese curd was down from 4,045,000 pounds in 1974 to 3,660,000 pounds in 1976. Consequently, creamed cottage cheese production also decreased from 5,505,000 pounds in 1974 to 4,785,000 pounds in 1975.

PRODUCTION OF MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES

YEAR	Ice Cream	Sherbet Milk	Ice Milk	Water Ices	Ice Cream Mix	All Other Mix 1/	Cottage Cheese Curd	Cottage Cheese Creamed
	Thousand Gallons						*Thousand Pounds*	
	NORTH CAROLINA							
1969	18,920	1,293	11,842	2/	7,602	7,064	5,476	7,659
1970	18,546	1,593	11,307	2,073	7,454	7,661	6,482	9,214
1971	19,016	1,486	10,907	2,290	7,459	6,701	8,277	11,623
1972	22,016	1,443	8,974	2,661	8,474	5,902	8,503	3/12,131
1973	23,207	1,451	9,278	2,154	9,057	5,977	8,129	3/11,548
1974	24,335	1,366	11,523	1,591	9,519	7,489	4,045	3/ 5,505
1975 4/	27,582	1,494	9,952	2,428	13,529	7,114	3,660	3/ 4,785
	UNITED STATES							
1969	765,501	51,199	275,495	2/	392,738	202,356	679,341	909,971
1970	761,732	48,887	286,663	37,265	388,656	208,185	726,338	978,452
1971	765,843	48,831	287,694	37,420	394,063	208,870	745,136	3/1,088,889
1972	765,586	50,017	290,806	39,939	397,229	213,216	784,204	3/1,115,092
1973	773,674	53,231	291,698	41,668	397,986	215,536	763,016	3/1,086,222
1974	781,971	49,932	296,100	42,771	403,216	216,250	689,660	3/855,682
1975 4/	833,289	48,133	294,530	38,151	430,242	214,352	700,975	3/861,669

1/ *Includes ice milk and milk sherbet mix.* 2/ *Not available.* 3/ *Includes low fat cottage cheese.* 4/ *Preliminary.*

CATTLE SLAUGHTER UP, HOGS DOWN

Commercial slaughter of livestock in North Carolina during June 1976 totaled 44,048,000 pounds live weight, up slightly from June last year. Cattle slaughtered during the month, at 16,400 head, were up 6 percent. The live weight of these cattle was 15,039,000 pounds. Calves slaughtered during June totaled 1,000 head for a live weight of 297,000 pounds. The hog kill was down 7 percent to 127,000 head; and live weight was down 5 percent to 28,702,000 pounds. Sheep and lambs slaughtered were reported at 100 head.

Commercial production of red meat in the United States totaled nearly 3.2 billion pounds in June, 11 percent over a year ago, and 7 percent above June 1974. Total red meat output for January - June 1976 was up 5 percent from 1975. Change by individual components: beef, up 10 percent; veal, up 10 percent; pork, down 5 percent; lamb and mutton, down 11 percent. Commercial meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER 1/

SPECIES	JUNE				JANUARY THROUGH JUNE			
	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	NORTH CAROLINA							
	Thous. Head		*Thous. Lbs.*		*Thous. Head*		*Thous. Lbs.*	
Cattle	15.4	16.4	13,552	15,039	94.5	108.4	83,568	98,149
Calves	.6	1.0	137	297	3.0	4.5	721	1,154
Sheep & Lambs	-	.1	-	10	.2	.3	17	30
Hogs	136.0	127.0	30,192	28,702	861.0	851.0	192,770	191,616
TOTAL	152.0	144.5	43,881	44,048	958.7	964.2	277,076	290,949
	UNITED STATES							
	Million Head		*Million Lbs.*		*Million Head*		*Million Lbs.*	
Cattle	3.2	3.6	3,153	3,647	19.3	21.1	19,502	21,443
Calves	.4	.4	112	111	2.2	2.6	618	680
Sheep & Lambs	.6	.5	64	55	3.9	3.3	402	357
Hogs	5.4	5.4	1,307	1,294	36.6	34.3	8,722	8,150
TOTAL	9.6	9.9	4,636	5,107	62.0	61.3	29,244	30,630

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

U. S. CATTLE INVENTORY DOWN

All cattle and calves on hand July 1, 1976 in the United States are estimated at 133.5 million head, 5 percent below a year earlier and 4 percent below July 1, 1974.

The number of beef cows, at 42.8 million, are down 9 percent from a year earlier and down 6 percent from two years ago.

Milk cows, at 11.1 million, are down slightly from July 1, 1975 and 1974.

Calves born and to be born during 1976 are expected to total 46.9 million, a decrease of 7 percent from 1975 and 1974. (See Table, Page 7)

CATTLE AND CALVES: Number By Classes and Calf Crop, United States, July 1, 1974-76

CLASS	1974	1975	1976	1976 As % Of 1975
	Thousand Head			Percent
Cattle and Calves	138,987	140,056	133,459	95
Cows and Heifers That Have Calved.	56,763	57,993	53,821	93
Beef Cows	45,560	46,842	42,770	91
Milk Cows	11,203	11,151	11,051	99
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	19,089	18,936	18,871	100
For Beef Cow Replacement	7,879	7,377	6,518	88
For Milk Cow Replacement	3,900	3,932	3,940	100
Other Heifers	7,310	7,627	8,413	110
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	18,358	17,291	18,683	108
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	2,904	3,063	2,756	90
Heifers, Steers, and Bulls Under 500 Pounds	41,873	42,773	39,328	92
Calf Crop 1/	50,695	50,426	46,905	93

1/ For 1975, the calf crop is the number of calves born before July 1 plus the number expected to be born after July 1.

FARMLAND (Cont'd. From Page 1)

The highest increases during the past year were in Iowa and Nebraska--both up 26 percent. Land values in the Far West, Northeast and Southeast increased the least. In Western States, the rate of per acre value increases for grazing land fell below gains for irrigated and dry cropland for the second consecutive year.

The total value of U. S. farm real estate as of February 1 was $421 billion, up $51 billion since March 1975. Farm buildings accounted for $72 billion of the total. The average value of an operating unit increased 15 percent to $165,000.

Inquiries for farm tracts are up since a year ago, indicating steady to higher market activity during 1976. The number of farm real estate transfers during the past year fell to a new low of 107,900, down 15,100. The rate of transfer of farm tracts for each 1,000 farms between March 1, 1975, and this February 1 was about 43, compared to 48 per 1,000 the previous year.

Farm enlargement is the dominant reason for buying farmland, accounting for 55 to 60 percent of all farm tract purchases during the last 6 years.

Reporters' opinions on credit availability reflect the continued general easing of credit restrictions which began a year ago. The feeling of increased availability is partly due to the stabilization of interest rates. During the last year, 87 percent of all real estate transfers were credit financed, and the ratio of debt to purchase price was 76 percent. Although the number of credit-financed voluntary and estate sales decreased 15 percent from the previous year and the number of acres transferred decreased 17 percent, total debt incurred declined only 2 percent to $7½ billion.

Sellers remained the most important source of funds, followed by Federal Land Banks. Commercial banks became more active in the loan market during the past year, especially in granting secondary loans.

The probable future use of farm tracts transferred has shown little variation. March 1976 reports indicated that, at the national level, transfers for "agricultural use only" dominated with 35 percent of all the purchases, 93 percent of the acres, and 92 percent of the total value.

DEMAND FOR COTTON STRONG

Increasing prices and a tightening supply-demand balance for cotton and wool characterize the current natural fiber situation in the U.S. Demand continues strong in the face of diminishing supplies, with cotton export demand in particular heating up in recent weeks. With further improvement in general economic and textile activity both here and abroad foreseen well into 1977, mill consumption and export prospects remain bright for next season, although tempered somewhat by growing concern over raw fiber supplies and rising prices.

Cotton prices have reacted strongly to the shortfall in production during 1975/76. Spot market prices have increased nearly 20 cents per pound since late March and are the highest since January 1974. Brisk export sales, coupled with supply uncertainties, have provided the impetus for higher prices during recent weeks. Although this price rise is good news for farmers, mill use of cotton will likely suffer next season as mills switch to the less expensive manmade fibers. Cotton is now priced substantially above manmade fiber staple in the United States.

With carryover stocks this August projected at a relatively low level and with planted acreage largely set, next season's supply depends on cotton yields which will determine not only production but, also to a large extent, mill use and exports as well.

This spring's higher cotton prices encouraged farmers to increase plantings sharply above 1975's 9½ million acres. As a result, 1976 production will tota significantly above the 8.3 millio bales harvested last year. Still, eve with normal yields, output may limi 1976/77 disappearance to only slightl above this season's level. The firs estimate of planted acreage was available June 30 while the first forecast of 1976 production will be published August 12.

Combined mill use and exports during the current 1975/76 season is pegged at about 10¾ million bales, up a million from last year because of stronger domestic demand. At the same time, production fell about 2½ million bales short of disappearance, meaning a drawdown in stocks to an estimated 3½ million bales by the end of the season. Stocks of the shorter staple lengths will be extremely tight until new crop supplies come to market.

U. S. mill consumption of cotton is expected to total around 7¼ million bales during 1975/76, up from last year's 5.9 million. Stronger demand for all-cotton denim and corduroy, coupled with larger cotton use in blends with manmade fiber, is boosting use.

Sharply smaller cotton production abroad, record-high foreign consumption, and reduced stocks have resulted in increased foreign demand for U. S. cotton during recent months. Although estimated 1975/76 U. S. exports of 3½ million bales are slightly below last year's level, sharply expanded sales since January are boosting shipments and bode well for 1976/77 deliveries.

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DRY WEATHER HARD ON CROPS

Crops generally deteriorated during the last half of July and early August as prolonged dry, hot weather prevailed in many areas of the State. As of August 14, soil moisture was rated very short to adequate. Most areas of the Coastal Plains enjoyed adequate moisture but the remainder of the State was very short to short.

Flue-cured tobacco harvest came into the center of attention the last half of July as priming became quite active. By August 14, the crop was 63 percent harvested, about 7 percent ahead of normal as dry weather hastened maturity. The condition of the crop ranged from mostly fair to good with plants in the Coastal Plains rated mostly good. Tobacco in the northern Piedmont was in poor to mostly fair condition as the drought left its mark there.

Dry weather dimmed corn prospects somewhat but a good crop is still expected. Corn was in fair to good condition as of August 14. It was rated mostly good in the major producing

(See Crops, Page 2)

FEWER SOYBEANS; Smaller Acreage

Less soybeans are expected to be produced in the State this year, mainly due to a 19 percent drop in acreage. Yields look to be about the same as last year's 23 bushels per acre. Production is forecast at 26.5 million bushels.

The U. S. soybean crop also is expected to be smaller with 1.3 billion bushels to be harvested. This is 12 percent less than the 1975 total but 11 percent above 1974. Yield is set at 27 bushels per acre, off 1 bushel from the 1975 average.

SMALLER FLUE-CURED TOBACCO CROP EXPECTED

Flue-cured tobacco production in North Carolina, based on conditions around August 1, is forecast at 859 million pounds. This is 3 percent lower than the July forecast and 8 percent below the 1975 production. The yield per acre is expected to average 2,012 pounds, 25 pounds above the 1975 rate.

U. S. flue-cured production is expected to total 1.29 billion pounds. This is about 9 percent less than that of 1975. The combined average yield of all flue-cured types is forecast at 1,964 pounds per acre, down 9 pounds from last season.

BURLEY PRODUCTION DOWN

The first forecast for the 1976 burley crop in North Carolina shows nearly an 11 percent drop in prospects.

(See Tobacco, Page 2)

CORN PROSPECTS DROP STILL RECORD HIGH

Based on conditions around August 1, the State's corn crop is forecast at a record-high 149 million bushels. This is 8 percent less than the July 1 forecast but 45 percent more than last year's total of 103 million bushels. Yields are expected to average 77 bushels per acre, 10 bushels over 1975's drought-reduced outturn. The record high corn yields for the State was posted in 1973 with 82 bushels per acre.

U. S. production is forecast at a record-high 6.2 billion bushels, up 7 percent from 1975. Yields are expected to average 86 bushels per acre, the same as in 1975.

CROPS *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

Coastal Plains, mostly poor in the northern Piedmont, and mostly fair in the remainder of the State.

Soybeans averaged fair to good over the State but were in fair to mostly good condition in the Coastal Plains where the principal acreage is grown.

Peanuts deteriorated somewhat but the crop was still rated fair to mostly good. Cotton improved in response to the dry, hot weather and was rated fair to mostly good in major producing areas.

Sweet potatoes were in fair to good condition as light harvest got underway in early August. Apple harvest started to pick up in August. Apple conditions ranged from fair to good in the State but were mostly good in the heavy producing mountain areas.

TOBACCO *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

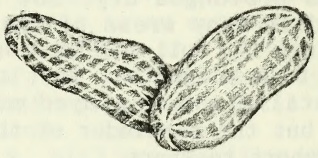
Total poundage is set at 20.7 million, off the 1975 figure by nearly 2.5 million. The indicated yield, at 2,300 pounds per acre, is 140 pounds less than last year's. The current crop was rated mostly fair as of August 14.

U. S. type 31 production also is down but only by about 2 percent. Nearly 629.5 million pounds is expected for an average yield of 2,255 pounds per acre.

LARGER PEANUT CROP EXPECTED

The North Carolina peanut crop i forecast at 398 million pounds. Thi is nearly 7 percent above the 1975 leve of 374 million pounds. The increas is due primarily to expected highe yields per acre. An average of 2,40 pounds per acre is indicated from th 166,000 acres for harvest. That's a increase of 135 pounds per acre.

U. S. production also is expecte to be higher but, at 3.9 billion pounds the increase is less than 1 percent. The yield is forecast at 2,568 pound per acre, essentially the same as las year's average.



N. C. GRAPE PRODUCTION LOWER U. S. CROP RECORD HIGH

North Carolina grape production i forecast at 3,500 tons, 8 percent less than the production utilized in 1975. The smaller crop is mainly a result of frost damage last spring as acreage is essentially unchanged.

U. S. production is expected to be 7 percent higher at 4.6 million tons, a record high. This is 6 percent higher than the previous record set in 1965.

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO, BY TYPE, AUGUST 1, 1976

STATE	TYPE	HARVESTED ACRES			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
		1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976
		Thousands			*Pounds*			*Thousand Pounds*		
Virginia	11	62.0	68.0	69.0	1,805	1,650	1,750	111,910	112,200	120,750
N. C.	11	152.0	179.0	176.0	1,790	1,710	1,800	272,080	306,090	316,800
N. C.	12	188.0	229.0	200.0	2,110	2,155	2,150	396,680	493,495	430,000
N. C.	13	50.0	62.0	51.0	2,030	2,165	2,200	101,500	134,230	112,200
N. C. Total	11-13	390.0	470.0	427.0	1,975	1,987	2,012	770,260	933,815	859,000
S. C.	13	80.0	90.0	77.0	2,150	2,100	2,050	172,000	189,000	157,850
Georgia	14	72.0	75.0	68.0	2,235	2,010	1,750	160,920	150,750	119,000
Florida	14	11.7	13.5	13.5	2,145	2,080	2,150	25,097	28,080	29,025
Alabama	14	.6	.7	.6	1,810	1,700	1,700	1,140	1,190	1,088
U. S. TOTAL	11-14	616.3	717.2	655.1	2,014	1,973	1,964	1,241,327	1,415,035	1,286,713

WHEAT PRODUCTION DOWN
OTHER SMALL GRAIN CROPS LESS

Wheat production in North Carolina s estimated at 7.3 million bushels, 12 ercent above the July 1 outlook but 22 ercent below last year's total. The verage yield is set at 28 bushels per cre, down 3 bushels from 1975 and 8 ushels from 1974.

Total oats produced is estimated t 4.1 million bushels, down 4 percent rom 1975. The average yield, at 43 ushels per acre, is off 7 bushels.

Barley production is set at 2.6 illion bushels, also down 4 percent rom 1975. Yield is estimated to be 0 bushels per acre, a 5 bushel decrease.

The rye crop is expected to be bout the same as last year's 360,000 ushels. Yield, at 18 bushels per acre, s also the same.

U.S. SMALL GRAIN PRODUCTION DOWN

The U. S. winter wheat crop is estimated at 1.5 billion bushels, off the record high 1975 total by 7 percent. Yield is expected to average 31 bushels per acre compared to 32 last year.

Production of oats is set at 548.5 million bushels, down 17 percent from a year ago. Yields averaged 5 bushels lower at 43 bushels per acre. Barley production is estimated to be 340.5 million bushels, an 11 percent decline. The average yield is down 3 bushels at 41 bushels per acre. The total rye production is expected to be 17.4 million bushels compared to the 17.9 million realized in 1975. Yields are expected to average 20 bushels per acre as opposed to 22 last year.

U. S. TOBACCO MARKET RECOVERS

The improved economy both in the United States and overseas has caused use of U. S. tobacco for the 1975/76 marketing year to recover substantially from last season's sluggish level. However, total disappearance is falling short of 1975's output. Thus, carryover by July 1 (October 1 for burley and other kinds) will rise some 200 million pounds above last year's 3 billion pounds.

Domestic cigarette use for the 10 months ended April 1976 increased about 3 percent and cigarette exports were up 21 percent. Also, manufacturers have rebuilt inventories, so cigarette output in the year ending June 30 may have moved about 7 percent above the 627 billion cigarettes produced last fiscal year. Further gains in cigarette inventories and sales should help boost production in the second half of 1976.

Contrasting with gains for cigarette smoking, but consistent with recent trends, use of cigars and smoking tobacco continue below a year earlier. For the year ending June 30, large cigar use was down about 8 percent and small cigar volume was off some 12 percent from 1974/75. Output of snuff is holding its own while chewing tobacco production may increase slightly.

Flue-cured tobacco exports were off 3 percent in July 1975-May 1976, with the largest drop in shipments to the United Kingdom and West Germany. For the year ending June 30, about 525 million pounds, farm-sales weight, will be exported, about 3 percent below 1974/75. Burley exports for the crop year ending September 30 are expected to substantially exceed last year's total of 68 million, farm-sales weight.

During July 1975-May 1976 cigarette tobacco imports for consumption at 220 million pounds (declared weight) fell slightly below a year earlier. Cigar leaf imports also dropped. U. S. manufacturers' stocks of imported cigarette tobacco on April 1 were 11 percent above a year earlier. U.S. stocks of foreign-grown cigar tobacco decreased 3 percent.

With a rise in cigarette output and decreased use of foreign tobacco, domestic flue-cured use in the year ended June 30, 1976 may have gained 8 percent from last season's level. Allowing for a lower level of exports, total disappearance of flue-cured ran about 3 percent above the 1.2 billion pounds of the previous season. This falls short of the 1975 crop, so the July 1976 carryover of flue-cured likely will gain a tenth from the 1.65 billion pounds of a year earlier.

NORTH CAROLINA: Estimated Acreage, Yield and Production Of Crops, August 1, 1976, With Comparisons

CROPS	UNIT	HARVESTED ACRES			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
		1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976
		Thousands							*Thousands*	
Corn for Grain.....	Bu.	1,570	1,540	1,940	74.0	67.0	77.0	116,180	103,180	149,380
Wheat, Winter.....	Bu.	275	300	260	36.0	31.0	28.0	9,900	9,300	7,280
Oats.....	Bu.	85	85	95	53.0	50.0	43.0	4,505	4,250	4,085
Barley.....	Bu.	60	60	65	46.0	45.0	40.0	2,760	2,700	2,600
Rye.....	Bu.	20	20	20	20.0	18.0	18.0	400	360	360
Tobacco: Flue-Cured....	Lb.	390.0	470.0	427.0	1,975	1,987	2,012	770,260	933,815	859,000
Burley.....	Lb.	8.0	9.5	9.0	2,370	2,440	2,300	18,960	23,180	20,700
All Types.....	Lb.	398.0	479.5	436.0	1,983	1,996	2,018	789,220	956,995	879,700
Cotton 1/.....	Lb.	145	53	68	440	412	424	133	46	60
Sorghum for Grain.....	Bu.	80	80	90	52.0	51.0	50.0	4,160	4,080	4,500
Irish Potatoes: Spring.	Cwt.	13.0	12.0	13.0	165	160	145	2,145	1,920	1,885
Summer.	Cwt.	4.5	4.0	4.4	135	120	135	608	480	594
All....	Cwt.	17.5	16.0	17.4	157	150	142	2,753	2,400	2,479
Sweet Potatoes.....	Cwt.	29.0	31.0	34.0	135	145	140	3,915	4,495	4,760
Soybeans for Beans.....	Bu.	1,420	1,420	1,150	21.5	23.0	23.0	30,530	32,660	26,450
Peanuts for Nuts.....	Lb.	166	165	166	2,315	2,265	2,400	384,290	373,725	398,400
Hay: Alfalfa & Mixtures	Ton	13	13	15	2.35	2.60	2.50	31	34	38
All Other.....	Ton	312	312	335	1.60	1.60	1.50	499	499	503
All Kinds.....	Ton	325	325	350	1.63	1.64	1.55	530	533	541
Pasture Condition 2/...	%	3/ 83	87	72	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peaches, All.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	30,000	15,000
Apples, Commercial.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	295,000	280,000	275,000
Grapes, All.....	Ton	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.10	3.82	3.50

1/ Production in 480-lb. NWB. 2/ Data shown for pastures represent condition, not acres. 3/ 1965-74 average condition on August 1.

UNITED STATES: Estimated Acreage, Yield and Production Of Crops, August 1, 1976, With Comparisons

CROPS	UNIT	HARVESTED ACRES			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
		1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976
		Thousands							*Thousands*	
Corn for Grain.....	Bu.	65,357	66,905	72,155	71.4	86.2	85.7	4,663,631	5,766,991	6,186,979
Wheat, Winter.....	Bu.	47,043	51,544	49,172	29.6	32.0	31.4	1,390,144	1,651,209	1,542,660
Wheat, All.....	Bu.	65,613	69,656	70,420	27.4	30.6	29.8	1,796,187	2,133,803	2,095,770
Oats.....	Bu.	13,206	13,650	12,716	46.5	48.1	43.1	613,777	656,862	548,542
Barley.....	Bu.	8,168	8,711	8,346	37.2	44.0	40.8	304,112	382,980	340,508
Rye.....	Bu.	897	814	851	21.5	22.0	20.4	19,293	17,875	17,382
Tobacco: Flue-cured....	Lb.	616.3	717.2	655.1	2,014	1,973	1,964	1,241,327	1,415,035	1,286,713
Burley.....	Lb.	260.8	282.2	279.1	2,350	2,265	2,255	612,649	639,056	629,475
All Types.....	Lb.	962.6	1,086.4	1,022.8	2,067	2,009	2,006	1,989,728	2,181,937	2,052,253
Cotton 1/.....	Lb.	12,567	8,796	11,045	441	453	466	11,540	8,302	10,730
Sorghum for Grain.....	Bu.	13,876	15,484	14,924	45.3	49.0	52.9	629,222	758,454	789,279
Irish Potatoes: Spring.	Cwt.	103.4	84.5	99.4	242	237	245	25,032	19,994	24,330
Summer.	Cwt.	133.3	115.7	120.4	191	181	190	25,421	20,898	22,870
Sweet Potatoes.....	Cwt.	121.7	118.5	120.8	114	114	112	13,921	13,567	13,515
Soybeans for Beans.....	Bu.	52,368	53,606	49,401	23.2	28.4	27.2	1,214,802	1,521,370	1,344,343
Peanuts for Nuts.....	Lb.	1,472	1,504	1,512	2,491	2,565	2,568	3,667,604	3,857,122	3,882,715
Hay: Alfalfa & Mixtures	Ton	26,817	27,057	26,647	2.78	2.87	2.60	74,672	77,761	69,191
All Other.....	Ton	33,754	34,806	34,512	1.55	1.58	1.48	52,471	55,156	51,124
All Kinds.....	Ton	60,571	61,863	61,159	2.10	2.15	1.97	127,143	132,917	120,315
Pasture Condition 2/...	%	3/ 78	80	70	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peaches, All.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,892,700	2,818,000	2,945,000
Apples, Commercial.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,484,000	7,087,100	6,186,200
Grapes, All.....	Ton	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,192	4,300	4,606

1/ U. S. includes American-Pima. Production in 480-lb. NWB. 2/ Data shown for pastures represent condition, not acres.
3/ 1965-74 average condition on August 1.

INCREASED YAM ACREAGE KEEPS NORTH CAROLINA NUMBER ONE

Sweet potato production for the Tar Heel State is forecast at 4.8 million cwt., 6 percent over 1975. Yields are expected to average 140 cwt. per acre, down 5 cwt. The increased production is a result of a tenth larger acreage.

The total U. S. sweet potato crop is set at 13.5 million cwt., almost the same as last year's total. The yield is expected to be slightly lower at 112 cwt. per acre.

IRISH POTATO PRODUCTION HIGHER

The North Carolina summer Irish potato crop is expected to total 594,000 cwt., 24 percent above the 1975 level but 2 percent less than in 1974. Average yield is set at 135 cwt. per acre, 15 cwt. more than last year's weather damaged crop.

The U. S. summer crop is also expected to be larger this year and is set at 22.9 million cwt., a 9 percent jump. Yields are to average 190 cwt. per acre which is 9 cwt. greater than the 1975 rate.

COTTON CROP LARGER THIS YEAR

The North Carolina cotton crop is expected to total 60,000 bales this year, not a large crop by historical standards but 30 percent above the near record low 1975 production. The increase is mainly due to a 28 percent jump in acreage but yields are expected to average 12 pounds higher at 424 pounds per acre. In contrast to most other crops, cotton has responded favorably to the hot, dry weather and based on conditions around August 14, it was in fair to mostly good condition.

The U. S. cotton output is also expected to increase and production is set at 10.7 million bales, a 29 percent advance over last year. Yields are forecast to average 466 pounds per acre, up 13 pounds from the 1975 rate and 25 pounds more than was realized in 1974.

COTTON REPORT AS OF AUGUST 1, 1976

STATE	ACRES HARVESTED			LINT PER ACRE			PRODUCTION 480-Lb. Net Wt. Bales		
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976
	Thousand Acres			*Pounds*			*Thousand Bales*		
UPLAND									
North Carolina	145	53	68	440	412	424	133	46	60
South Carolina	292	103	165	450	454	422	274	98	145
Georgia	410	160	240	490	443	440	419	148	220
Tennessee	510	315	390	290	339	246	308	222	200
Alabama	585	370	450	429	405	299	522	312	280
Missouri	330	210	230	335	449	303	230	196	145
Mississippi	1,710	1,100	1,530	448	454	455	1,595	1,040	1,450
Arkansas	1,130	680	1,000	374	485	365	880	687	760
Louisiana	635	310	545	423	535	476	560	346	540
Oklahoma	547	295	335	272	277	301	310	170	210
Texas	4,400	3,900	4,500	269	293	363	2,462	2,382	3,400
New Mexico	140	85	89	509	382	458	148	68	85
Arizona	392	268	318	1,218	1,027	1,079	995	573	715
California	1,238	875	1,120	1,006	1,072	1,050	2,595	1,954	2,450
Other 1/	20.3	6.1	9.2	449	393	522	19	5	10
U.S. UPLAND 2/	12,484	8,730	10,989	440	453	466	11,450	8,247	10,670
U.S. AM. PIMA 3/	82.3	65.9	55.5	526	397	521	90	55	60
U.S. ALL	12,567	8,796	11,045	441	453	466	11,540	8,302	10,730

1/ Virginia, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky and Nevada. 2/ Sum of State totals above. 3/ Includes total American Pima in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California; not included in individual State data above.

JULY MILK PRODUCTION HIGHER

Milk produced by North Carolina dairy herds during July is estimated at 136 million pounds, up 1 percent from last year and an increase of 5 percent from July 1974. Milk production per cow totaled 890 pounds, 10 pounds above July 1975. The number of milk cows on farms is estimated at 153,000 head, unchanged from July last year.

July milk production in the U. S. totaled 10,448 million pounds -- up 4.8 percent from a year earlier and 2.7 percent above July 1974. Average production per cow at 946 pounds was 52 pounds more than a year earlier and 38 pounds above July 1974. Partially offsetting the increase in rate per cow was a 0.9 percent decline from a year earlier in the number of milk cows during July, estimated at 11,050,000 head. Milk cows also declined slightly from June.

Production during the first 7 months of the year totaled 71,990 million pounds -- an increase of 3.5 percent from the same period last year and 3.1 percent above the 1974 period.

MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION -- JULY

STATE	MILK COWS ON FARMS 1/			MILK PER COW 2/			MILK PRODUCTION 2/			
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1976 As % Of 1975
	Thousands			*Pounds*			*Million Pounds*			*Percent*
N. C.	152	153	153	850	880	890	129	135	136	101
Va.	159	158	161	930	940	930	148	149	150	101
Md.	136	141	143	925	900	940	126	127	134	106
Ga.	130	129	128	730	720	800	95	93	102	110
Fla.	200	198	199	785	800	800	157	158	159	101
U. S.	11,202	11,148	11,050	908	894	946	10,169	9,967	10,448	105

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

FEWER APPLES EXPECTED THIS YEAR

The 1976 commercial apple crop in North Carolina is forecast at 275 million pounds. Based on 42 pound equivalents, this would amount to 6.5 million units. This is 2 percent below the 1975 total utilized production of 280 million pounds.

The Red Delicious continues to be the most popular variety of apple. It is expected to account for 43 percent of the total production. The next leading variety is Rome Beauty, with 26 percent of the total, followed by Golden Delicious with 17 percent. Stayman accounts for 8 percent of the total and all other varieties 6 percent.

The August 1 forecast of the Nation's 1976 commercial apple crop is 6.2 billion pounds. This is 13 percent less than the record 7.1 billion pounds utilized last year and is 5 percent below the 1974 crop. Virtually all major producing areas expect some decline from a year ago. The Eastern and Central States will be off by 19 and 28 percent, respectively, while the West expects only a 1 percent reduction.

Red Delicious continues a long history as the leading apple variety, accounting for 38 percent (2.3 billion pounds) of the U. S. total. Other leading varieties and their percent of expected 1976 total production are: Golden Delicious, 16 percent; Rome Beauty, 8 percent; McIntosh, 8 percent; Jonathan, 5 percent; and Stayman, 3 percent. Together, these six varieties account for 78 percent (4.8 billion pounds) of the total U. S. production.

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES

SNAP BEANS (Fresh Market): Tar Heel growers harvested 2,700 acres of snap beans in the spring quarter (April, May and June) of 1976 for fresh market--down 4 percent from 1975. Yield per acre is up 2 cwt. from a year earlier to 27 cwt. Production totaled 73,000 cwt. -- up 4 percent from the previous year. Prices received averaged $18.30 per cwt. compared with $22.00 in 1975. The total value of production at $1,336,000 is down 13 percent from last year.

The U. S. spring acreage is placed at 22,200 acres, 6 percent more than last year. The yield averaged 37 cwt. per acre and production totaled 832,000 cwt., 14 percent above the previous year. The total value of the crop is 15.3 million dollars.

CABBAGE (Fresh Market): The spring cabbage crop in North Carolina was harvested from an estimated 2,100 acres, same as harvested in 1975. The yield per acre at 130 cwt. was up 20 cwt. from last year. Production is set at 273,000 cwt., 18 percent more than the previous year. Value is placed at $865,000 and the price per cwt. averaged $3.17.

The U. S. spring harvested cabbage acreage at 17,450 acres is 2 percent above last year. The yield per acre averaged 205 cwt., down 2 cwt. from a year earlier. Production of 3,571,000 cwt. was valued at 16.0 million dollars.

CUCUMBERS (Fresh Market): Growers in North Carolina harvested an estimated 3,000 acres of cucumbers in the spring quarter, up 500 acres or 20 percent from a year earlier. Yield per acre at 59 cwt. is down 8 cwt. from the previous spring. Production is set at 177,000 cwt., up 9,000 cwt. from 1975. With an average price of $7.90 per cwt., value is placed at $1,398,000.

The U. S. spring cucumber production is placed at 2,078,000 cwt., 17 percent above last year. The crop was harvested from an estimated 18,900 acres, 1,600 more than 1975. Yield per acre averaged 110 cwt. compared with 103 cwt. the previous year. The total value is 19.7 million dollars.

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NORTH CAROLINA Farm Report

Federal - State
Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

No. 712 September 10, 1976

CASH RECEIPTS RISE IN 1975

North Carolina farmers received an estimated $2,673 million from the the marketing of farm products during 1975, an increase of 4 percent from 1974 and 15 percent from 1973. (See Table, Page 4.) Crop sales, at $1,677 million, accounted for 62.7 percent of the total income. Livestock sales, at $996 million, represent the remaining 37.3 percent of the total.

Tobacco brought in the largest share of crop cash receipts, an estimated $951 million in 1975. This compared to $838 million in 1974. Income from tobacco represented 35.6 percent of income from all commodities in 1975 and 32.6 percent in 1974.

Poultry and eggs, at $543 million accounted for 20.3 percent of income from all commodities in 1975. In 1974 poultry and egg cash receipts of $501 million accounted for 19.5 percent of total income from all commodities.

JULY EGG PRODUCTION DECLINES

An estimated 226 million eggs were produced on Tar Heel farms during July, down 2 percent from July 1975. The number of hens and pullets of laying age on hand during the month averaged 11,200,000 compared with 11,375,000 a year earlier. Rate of lay per 100 layers increased slightly from 2,018 eggs during July 1975 to 2,021 eggs per 100 layers during July 1976.

The nation's laying flocks produced 5.4 billion eggs during July, 2 percent above the previous month. The number of layers during July was 1 percent fewer than a year earlier but eggs produced per 100 layers were 1 percent above a year ago. (See Table, Page 7.)

AUGUST PRICE INDEX UP

The ''All Farm Products'' index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets during August is 179 (1967 = 100), up 6 points from July and an increase of 4 points from August 1975.

The August ''All Crops'' index, at 177, rose 12 points from July. Fruits were up 21 points, and oil bearing crops and grains were down 18 and 12 points respectively.

The ''Livestock and Livestock Products'' index dropped 3 points from July. Meat animals were off 19 points while the poultry and dairy indexes increased. (See Table, Page 2.)

HOG PRICES LIKELY TO START DOWNWARD

The June 1 inventory of market hogs weighing under 180 pounds shows the potential for a substantial increase in hog slaughter during the last half of the year. Much of the potential supply increase will come from pigs weighing under 60 pounds. Producers still have some flexibility by saving gilts from this weight group for further herd expansion; but a second half slaughter increase of 15-17 percent from a year earlier now seems likely. Although weekly hog slaughter rates during July-September are expected to run well above a year ago, they may not differ much from first half levels. Slaughter during October-December likely will be up seasonally from the summer quarter by about 10 percent.

Hog prices will likely reach their seasonal peak in the low $50's during July while marketings are seasonally

(See Hog Prices, Page 8)

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DOWN 8 POINTS PRICES PAID INDEX DOWN 1 POINT

The Index of Prices Received by U. S. Farmers decreased 8 points (4 percent) to 187 percent of its January-December 1967 average during the month ended August 15, 1976. Contributing most to the decrease since mid-July were lower prices for meat animals, feed grains, oil-bearing crops and food grains. Higher prices for fruit, milk, eggs and vegetables were partially offsetting. The index was 7 points (4 percent) below a year earlier.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates for August 15 was 195, down 1 point (½ percent) from the revised July index. Lower prices for feed and feeder livestock accounted for the index decrease. The index was 11 points (6 percent) above a year earlier.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARM PRICES INDEX NUMBERS

INDEX (1967 = 100)	Aug. 15 1973	Aug. 15 1974	Aug. 15 1975	July 15 1976	Aug. 15 1976
NORTH CAROLINA					
Prices Received: All Farm Products....	3/ 183	3/ 169	175	3/ 173	179
All Crops.....	3/ 154	3/ 175	163	3/ 165	177
Tobacco.....	130	155	143	141	163
Cotton.....	209	3/ 205	184	242	242
Oil Bearing.....	226	232	206	225	207
Grains.....	206	255	217	217	205
Commercial Vegetables.....	3/ 176	3/ 150	204	177	185
Fruits.....	3/ 137	3/ 141	191	3/ 216	237
Livestock and Livestock Products.....	3/ 236	160	195	187	184
Meat Animals.....	274	3/ 176	229	215	196
Poultry.....	249	153	191	182	184
Dairy.....	3/ 136	3/ 155	155	3/ 162	164
UNITED STATES					
Prices Received, All Farm Products.....	3/ 207	185	3/194	3/ 195	187
Prices Paid, Commodities & Services 1/.	3/ 158	3/ 173	187	3/ 196	195
Parity Ratio 2/.....	131	107	3/104	3/ 99	96

1/ Including Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid. 3/ Revised.

MOST CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRICES DOWN, FEED PRICES MIXED

Average prices received for crops by North Carolina farmers at local markets about mid-August were mostly down from a month earlier. (See Table, Page 3.) Corn was $2.81 per bushel, a drop of 18 cents. Oats were down 3 cents per bushel to $1.51, and soybeans were down 81 cents to $6.08 per bushel. Tobacco increased to $1.07 per pound.

Prices received for livestock declined. Hogs were down $4.30 per hundredweight from July to $43.40. Beef cattle dropped $2.20 and veal calves were off $4.30 per hundredweight. Milk cows dropped $10.00 per head to $320.00.

Prices the state's farmers paid for feed during August were mixed. (See Table, Page 3.) Mixed dairy feed with 16 percent protein was down $2.00 per ton to $145.00, and feed with 32 percent protein dropped $6.00 per ton from July. Chick starter and turkey grower were each up $2.00 per ton. In the high protein feeds category, cottonseed meal (41 percent protein) was up $1.00 and soybean meal (44 percent protein) was down 50 cents per hundredweight from July.

COMMODITY PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		Aug. 15 1975	July 15 1976	Aug. 15 1976	Aug. 15 1975	July 15 1976	Aug. 15 1976
		Dollars					
Tobacco	Lb.	.934	.923	1.070	.955	.987	1.087
Corn	Bu.	3.00	2.99	2.81	2.95	2.82	2.64
Wheat	Bu.	3.04	-	-	3.89	3.33	2.97
Oats	Bu.	1.44	1.54	1.51	1.44	1.64	1.48
Barley	Bu.	1.81	-	-	2.56	2.51	2.35
Rye	Bu.	2.26	-	-	2.44	-	-
Sorghum Grains	Cwt.	4.68	-	-	4.69	4.53	4.03
Soybeans	Bu.	6.02	6.89	6.08	5.80	6.73	6.07
Cotton	Lb.	.450	-	-	.429	.714	.610
Wool	Lb.	-	-	-	.460	.702	.665
Hogs	Cwt.	55.10	47.70	43.40	56.00	47.70	42.60
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	23.40	28.90	26.70	33.10	33.50	32.80
Veal Calves	Cwt.	26.20	35.70	31.40	25.70	35.20	34.50
Milk Cows	Hd.	300.00	330.00	320.00	411.00	478.00	474.00
Com'l. Broilers	Lb.	.275	.250	.245	.288	.254	.243
Turkeys	Lb.	.380	.350	.350	.352	.312	.309
Eggs 1/	Doz.	.616	.640	.688	.505	.555	.606
Milk, Whlse	Cwt.	10.30	2/10.40	* 10.50	8.56	9.41	9.67
Potatoes	Cwt.	6.25	4.80	6.00	5.91	4.85	4.16
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt.	5.90	-	-	10.10	9.12	7.74
Apples, Com'l	Lb.	.055	.130	.152	.118	.095	.123
Hay, All	Ton	57.00	-	-	51.00	59.00	58.70
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	57.50	-	-	54.10	63.50	63.40
Other	Ton	57.00	-	-	44.10	47.70	47.80

1/ Average of all eggs sold by farmers including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail by farmers. 2/ Revised. * Preliminary.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

TYPE OF FEED	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	Aug. 15 1975	July 15 1976	Aug. 15 1976	Aug. 15 1975	July 15 1976	Aug. 15 1976
	Per Ton - Dollars					
Mixed Dairy Feed						
14% Protein	133.00	143.00	141.00	133.00	140.00	138.00
16% Protein	135.00	147.00	145.00	135.00	145.00	144.00
32% Protein	163.00	185.00	179.00	172.00	206.00	201.00
Poultry Feeds						
Chick Starter	168.00	176.00	178.00	168.00	187.00	183.00
Broiler Grower	175.00	181.00	177.00	163.00	181.00	177.00
Laying Feed 1/	154.00	163.00	157.00	150.00	162.00	158.00
Turkey Grower 1/	164.00	176.00	178.00	168.00	187.00	181.00
	Per 100 Lbs. - Dollars					
Grain By-Products						
Bran	7.50	7.70	7.80	7.21	7.60	7.51
Middlings	7.50	7.40	7.10	7.03	7.46	7.38
Corn Meal	7.20	7.10	7.30	7.27	7.20	7.09
High Protein Feeds						
Cottonseed Meal 41%	9.60	10.50	11.50	9.03	11.40	11.40
Soybean Meal 44%	8.60	12.50	12.00	8.88	12.50	11.70

1/ Complete ration feeds which are fed without further mixing or supplementations.

CASH RECEIPTS FROM NORTH CAROLINA FARM MARKETINGS

COMMODITIES	RECEIPTS			PERCENTAGE OF ALL COMMODITIES	
	1973	1974	1975 1/	1974	1975
	1,000 Dollars			Percent	
ALL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES: 2/.	2,334,160	2,572,988	2,673,305	100.0	100.0
Crops	1,361,189	1,655,192	1,676,989	64.3	62.7
Livestock & Livestock Products.	972,971	917,796	996,316	35.7	37.3
INDIVIDUAL CROPS:					
Food Grains	10,858	26,639	21,742	1.0	.8
Wheat	10,414	25,836	21,243	1.0	.8
Rye	444	803	499	*	*
Feed Grains	167,488	294,971	239,401	11.5	9.0
Corn	157,435	278,806	224,117	10.8	8.4
Hay	2,492	3,594	3,681	.1	.1
Oats	1,358	2,119	2,407	.1	.1
Sorghum Grain	4,756	8,606	7,482	.3	.3
Barley	1,447	1,846	1,714	.1	.1
Cotton	39,232	38,456	14,528	1.5	.5
Cotton Lint	34,135	34,910	13,128	1.4	.5
Cotton Lint	5,097	3,546	1,400	.1	.1
Tobacco	719,160	838,429	951,356	32.6	35.6
Oil Crops	245,587	268,631	232,710	10.4	8.7
Peanuts	74,622	67,144	73,445	2.6	2.7
Soybeans	170,965	201,487	159,265	7.8	6.0
Vegetables	78,448	79,292	101,683	3.1	3.8
Potatoes	14,837	12,459	20,441	.5	.8
Sweet Potatoes	18,677	24,338	33,167	.9	1.2
Cucumbers 3/	11,939	13,478	14,334	.5	.5
Snap Beans 3/	5,154	4,323	5,841	.2	.2
Cabbage	8,343	4,653	4,967	.2	.2
Tomatoes 3/	4,013	3,490	4,162	.1	.2
Peppers	3,619	3,641	4,564	.1	.2
Corn, Sweet	2,774	2,263	2,413	.1	.1
Watermelons	1,254	1,617	1,357	.1	.1
Cantaloupes	650	600	600	*	*
Miscellaneous Vegetables	7,188	8,430	9,837	.3	.4
Fruits and Nuts	23,764	27,049	36,018	1.1	1.3
Apples	13,310	18,117	23,439	.7	.9
Peaches	3,322	2,587	5,162	.1	.2
Strawberries	2,385	1,820	2,035	.1	.1
Pecans	506	863	833	*	*
Grapes	1,016	842	804	*	*
Other Fruits and Nuts 4/	3,225	2,820	3,745	.1	.1
All Other Crops	76,652	81,725	79,551	3.2	3.0
Forest Products	48,000	50,000	45,000	1.9	1.7
Greenhouse Nursery	27,000	30,000	33,000	1.2	1.2
Lespedeza Seed	209	197	76	*	*
Miscellaneous Crops 5/	1,443	1,528	1,475	.1	.1
LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS.					
Meat Animals	295,176	272,296	297,590	10.6	11.1
Hogs	203,961	205,317	241,332	8.0	9.0
Cattle and Calves	91,100	66,840	56,123	2.6	2.1
Sheep and Lambs	115	139	135	*	*
Dairy Products	118,923	139,115	150,240	5.4	5.6
Milk, Wholesale	115,830	135,845	146,970	5.3	5.5
Milk, Retail	3,093	3,270	3,270	.1	.1
Poultry and Eggs	554,636	501,271	543,436	19.5	20.3
Broilers	281,500	245,896	283,489	9.6	10.6
Eggs	162,602	159,409	144,291	6.2	5.4
Turkeys	86,201	74,367	89,994	2.9	3.4
Chickens, Farm	16,563	13,784	17,712	.5	.7
Miscellaneous Poultry 6/	7,770	7,815	7,950	.3	.3
Miscellaneous Livestock	4,236	5,114	5,050	.2	.2
Honey	2,159	2,484	2,402	.1	.1
Beeswax	64	112	89	*	*
Wool	46	35	28	*	*
Other Misc. Livestock 7/	1,967	2,483	2,531	.1	.1

(See Footnotes on Page 3)

CATTLE AND HOG SLAUGHTER DECLINE

Commercial slaughter of livestock in North Carolina during July 1976 totaled 39,697,000 pounds live weight, down 6 percent from July last year. Cattle slaughtered, at 15,300 head, were down 17 percent from a year earlier, while calves slaughtered were down 37 percent. The hog kill, at 116,000 head, was off 2 percent from last year. Sheep and lamb slaughter was reported at 100 head, unchanged from July 1975.

Commercial production of red meat in the United States totaled over 3.0 billion pounds in July, 7 percent more than a year ago and 1 percent above July 1974. Total red meat output for January-July 1976 was up 5 percent from 1975. Change by individual components: beef, up 10 percent; veal, up 5 percent; pork, down 4 percent; lamb and mutton, down 11 percent. Commercial meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER 1/

SPECIES	JULY				JANUARY THROUGH JULY			
	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	NORTH CAROLINA							
	Thous. Head		*Thous. Lbs.*		*Thous. Head*		*Thous. Lbs.*	
Cattle	18.5	15.3	16,206	14,061	113.0	123.7	99,774	112,210
Calves	.8	.5	177	107	3.8	5.0	898	1,261
Sheep & Lambs	.1	.1	9	9	.3	.4	26	39
Hogs	118.0	116.0	25,724	25,520	979.0	967.0	218,494	217,136
TOTAL	137.4	131.9	42,116	39,697	1,096.1	1,096.1	319,192	330,646
	UNITED STATES							
	Million Head		*Million Lbs.*		*Million Head*		*Million Lbs.*	
Cattle	3.4	3.5	3,306	3,538	22.7	24.6	22,808	24,981
Calves	.5	.4	138	109	2.7	3.0	756	788
Sheep & Lambs	.7	.5	66	57	4.5	3.8	469	419
Hogs	5.0	5.1	1,187	1,220	41.5	39.4	9,909	9,369
TOTAL	9.6	9.5	4,697	4,924	71.4	70.8	33,942	35,557

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

Footnotes For Cash Receipts Table

*1/ Preliminary. 2/ Except for forest products and greenhouse and nursery products, cash receipts are shown only for those commodities for which the Department publishes estimates of the value of production. All other estimates, while included in commodity group total, are combined as appropriate in the "Other Livestock", "Miscellaneous Vegetables", "Other Berries", "Other Fruits and Nuts", or "Other Crops" items. 3/ Processing included. 4/ Cherries, figs, plums and prunes, walnuts, chestnuts, blackberries, blueberries, raspberries and other. 5/ Popcorn, other grains, crimson clover seed, ladino clover seed, red clover seed, fescue seed, orchardgrass seed, redtop seed, ryegrass seed, vetch seed, millet, other seeds and other field crops. 6/ Includes turkey eggs and other poultry. 7/ Includes horses and mules and other miscellaneous livestock. * Less than 0.05 percent. Percents may not be accurate to 0.1 in last place because of method of machine computations.*

HATCHERY PRODUCTION UP

North Carolina commercial hatcheries produced 32,546,000 chicks during July 1976, up 20 percent from a year earlier. The July hatch consisted of 31,896,000 broiler-type and 650,000 egg-type chicks compared with 26,709,000 broiler-type and 521,000 egg-type chicks during July last year.

Across the nation, the July hatch increased 12 percent from a year earlier for broiler-type chicks and decreased slightly for egg-type chicks.

The number of broiler-type eggs in incubators on August 1 was up 13 percent from last year for the South Atlantic States and up 11 percent for the United States. The number of egg-type eggs in incubators on August 1 increased 23 percent in the South Atlantic States and was up 4 percent for the nation.

CHICKS HATCHED -- JULY

STATE	BROILER-TYPE		EGG-TYPE		ALL TYPES	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands					
NORTH CAROLINA	26,709	31,896	521	650	27,230	32,546
South Carolina	2,004	2,667	763	983	2,767	3,650
Georgia	38,508	41,966	3,817	3,527	42,325	45,493
Florida	6,767	7,710	3,734	3,327	10,501	11,037
Delaware	12,168	15,041	1/	1/	12,168	15,041
Maryland	18,147	18,706	1/	1/	18,147	18,706
Virginia	7,639	8,321	639	703	8,278	9,024
UNITED STATES	270,827	302,291	38,099	38,001	308,926	340,292

1/ Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations.

U. S. POULT HATCH UP 8 PERCENT

The U. S. commercial hatch of turkey poults during July 1976, at 15.4 million, was 8 percent above a year ago. The hatch of heavy breeds was up 6 percent from the same month last year to 13.5 million poults and light breed poults hatched were up 23 percent to 1.9 million.

The number of turkey eggs in incubators on August 1, 1976 at 12.2 million was 8 percent below last year. Eggs set for heavy breed turkeys were down 8 percent from last year and light breeds were down 9 percent.

POULTS HATCHED -- JULY

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS (U. S.)	HEAVY BREEDS 1/		LIGHT BREEDS 2/		ALL BREEDS	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands					
North Atlantic	285	308	43	48	328	356
East North Central	1,943	2,231	147	195	2,090	2,426
West North Central	3,875	3,766	1,033	1,204	4,908	4,970
South Atlantic	2,274	2,588	217	302	2,491	2,890
South Central	1,143	1,304	0	0	1,143	1,304
West	3,214	3,277	84	131	3,298	3,408
UNITED STATES	12,734	13,474	1,524	1,880	14,258	15,354

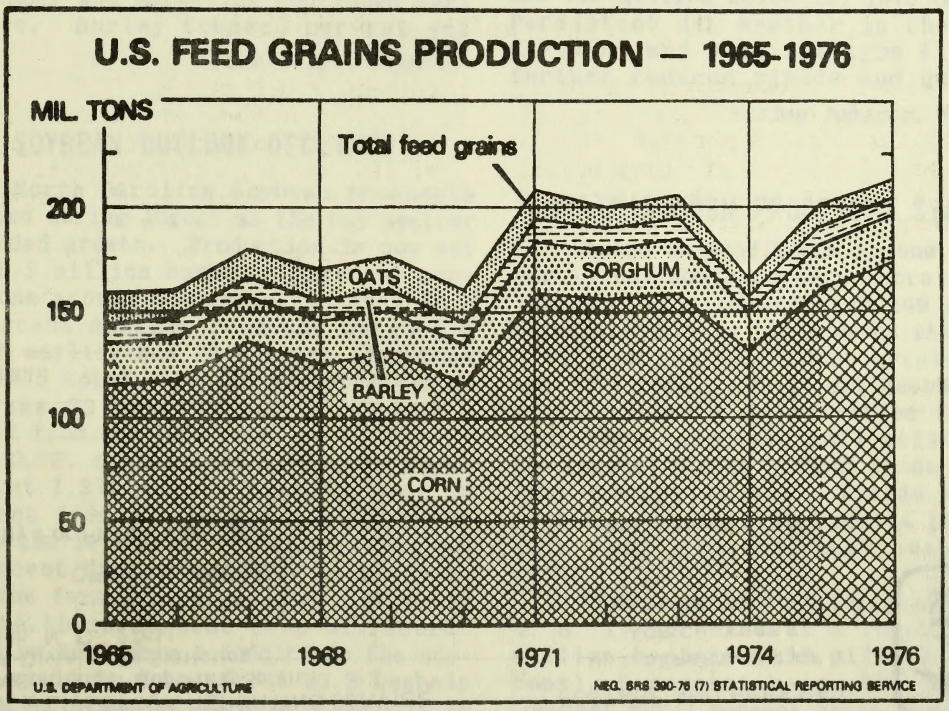
1/ Birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is 12 pounds or over.
2/ Birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is under 12 pounds.

NUMBER OF LAYERS AND EGG PRODUCTION -- JULY

STATE	LAYERS ON HAND		EGGS PER 100 LAYERS		TOTAL EGGS PRODUCED	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands		*Number*		*Millions*	
NORTH CAROLINA	11,375	11,200	2,018	2,021	230	226
Virginia	3,262	3,397	2,043	2,040	67	69
South Carolina	5,895	4,650	2,027	2,170	119	101
Georgia	21,977	22,475	1,969	2,040	433	458
Florida	11,429	11,858	2,021	1,947	231	231
UNITED STATES	269,985	267,809	1,995	2,014	5,387	5,393

RECORD FEED GRAIN PRODUCTION LIKELY

Production of the four feed grains (corn, sorghum, oats and barley) is expected to total 193 million metric tons, 5 percent above 1975 and 2 percent above the record 1971 outturn. Prospects for oats and barley improved during July as harvested yields turned out substantially better than expected in the west North Central States, particularly in the drought areas of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. Probable 1976 corn production declined 6 percent during July as dry weather cut potential yields in Illinois, Wisconsin and western Corn Belt States. However, the corn crop appears headed for a record production and will likely carry total feed grain production to a record high. The first forecast of sorghum production placed probable production 4 percent above last year.



HOG PRICES *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

low. But increasing supplies are expected to push prices downward for the balance of the year. The 7 market price for barrows and gilts probably will average above $40 for the 4th quarter, but could drop below $40 at times.

On June 1, hog producers planned a 17 percent increase in sows farrowing for the fall crop. If these intentions are carried out, slaughter during the first half of 1977 could be up 15 percent or more from the first half of this year.

FALL PIG CROP AND HOG SLAUGHTER

	JUNE-NOV. PIG CROP	JAN.-JUNE COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER	PERCENT OF PIG CROP SLAUGHTERED
	Thousand Head	*Thousand Head*	*Percent*
1963/64	43,307	41,975	96.9
1964/65	39,862	38,368	96.3
1965/66	36,415	34,998	96.1
1966/67	42,132	40,558	96.3
1967/68	43,551	41,833	96.1
1968/69	45,078	42,653	94.6
1969/70	42,155	39,927	94.7
1970/71	49,629	47,865	96.4
1971/72	45,923	43,650	95.1
1972/73	43,174	39,703	92.0
1973/74	42,004	42,164	98.0
1974/75	38,879	36,568	94.1
1975/76	35,772	1/34,300	95.9

1/ *Estimated.*

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NORTH CAROLINA Farm Report

Federal - State
Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

No. 713 September 21, 1976

DRY WEATHER HINDERS CROPS

Drought conditions continued in many parts of the State during the second half of August and the first part of September. Crop prospects generally held steady or declined during the four week period. Soil moisture, as of September 11, averaged very short to short. Aside from several coastal counties and a couple of far western counties which had adequate moisture, soil moisture in the State was very short to short. The Piedmont remained the driest part of the State and moisture there was mostly very short.

Flue-cured tobacco harvest was nearing completion the second week of September and marketing continued very active. Burley tobacco harvest got

(See Crops, Page 2)

SOYBEAN OUTLOOK DECLINES

North Carolina soybean prospects dropped during August as the dry weather retarded growth. Production is now set at 25.3 million bushels, based on conditions around September 1. This is a 4 percent decline from the outlook a month earlier and 23 percent less than the 1975 total. Yields are expected to average 22 bushels per acre, off 1 bushel from the 1975 rate.

U. S. soybean production is forecast at 1,274 million bushels, down 16 percent from a year ago but 5 percent above the 1974 crop. Prospects declined 5 percent during August. If the production forecast is realized, it would be the third largest crop of record. Based on September 1 conditions the soybean yield is forecast at 25.8 bushels per acre compared with 28.4 bushels in

(See Soybeans, Page 2)

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO DOWN SLIGHTLY

Flue-cured tobacco in North Carolina is expected to total 855 million pounds, based on reports from growers around September 1. This is a 1 percent drop from the August forecast and 8 percent less than the 1975 poundage.

The outlook for Type 12, at 430 million pounds, and Type 13, at 112.2 million pounds, is unchanged from the previous month. Type 11, however, was hurt by the prolonged drought in the Piedmont and production at 312.4 million pounds is 4.4 million pounds lower than expected in August.

Flue-cured tobacco in the U. S. is forecast at 1,275 million pounds, 11 million below that indicated on August 1 and 140 million below the 1975 outturn. Persistent dry weather in the North Carolina and Virginia type 11 areas further reduced yields and quality.

(See Tobacco, Page 2)

STATE'S CORN PROSPECTS STABLE

Based on conditions around September 1, the North Carolina corn crop is forecast at a record-high 149 million bushels. This is the same as the August 1 outlook and 45 percent greater than the 1975 total. While dry weather generally caused a deterioration in Piedmont corn, adequate soil moisture in the Coastal Plains brought about a somewhat better outlook. Yields are expected to average 77 bushels per acre this year compared to 67 bushels in 1975.

Production of corn for grain in the U. S. is forecast at a record 5,892 million bushels (150 million metric tons), 5 percent below the August 1 forecast but 2 percent above last year's

(See Corn, Page 3)

SOYBEANS (Cont'd. From Page 1)

1975 and 23.2 bushels two years ago.

The extended dry conditions have lowered soybean production prospects from last month in all major producing areas. Ohio, the only State with an increase from a month ago, forecasts a record high 33 bushels per acre. Indiana, Minnesota and Georgia maintained their respective yields of 34, 22 and 22 bushels per acre. All other States included in the current forecast dropped 1 to 4 bushels from the August 1 report. In the North Central States, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas show a 2 bushel per acre decrease, while Nebraska is down 4 bushels. In the South Central States, Mississippi reports a 3 bushel decrease in yield per acre from August 1. Arkansas and Louisiana are down 2 bushels with other States down 1 bushel per acre.

TOBACCO (Cont'd. From Page 1)

These losses were partially offset by an increase in Georgia's type 14 estimate.

BURLEY PROSPECTS LOWER

The September 1 outlook for the N. C. burley crop, at 19.8 million pounds, is 4 percent less than forecast a month earlier. This is 15 percent less than the 1975 output mainly due to a 10 percent drop in yield.

At 626 million pounds, U. S. burley prospects dropped about 4 million pounds between August 1 and September 1. Estimated yields were lowered in North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia because of dry weather.

CROPS (Cont'd. From Page 1)

started the latter part of August and, as of September 11, was 61 percent complete. This compared with last year's pace of 51 percent.

Corn prospects held steady during the period and, as of September 11, conditions averaged fair to good. While Piedmont corn averaged poor to fair, the Coastal Plains crop was fair to mostly good. By the end of the second week in September, corn for grain harvest was 38% finished. This compared with 21% in 1975 and 24% on the average. About two-thirds of the corn for silage had been cut.

The condition of soybeans deteriorated somewhat and averaged mostly fair as of September 11. Beans in the major producing Coastal Plains were mostly fair to good. Worms were causing problems in several areas and spraying operations became active the first part of September.

The condition of peanuts started to decline in early September as the drought extended into the northern Coastal Plains where most of the acreage is located. As of September 11, the condition of the crop averaged mostly fair. Cotton also started to decline in early September and averaged mostly fair.

Sweet Potato prospects declined steadily during August as the drought hampered full development. Conditions averaged mostly fair in the State as a whole and poor to mostly fair in major producing areas. Harvest was lagging at nearly 10 percent completion as of September 11 compared to 17 percent in 1975.

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO, BY TYPE, SEPTEMBER 1, 1976

STATE	TYPE	HARVESTED ACRES			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
		1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976
		Thousands			*Pounds*			*Thousand Pounds*		
Virginia	11	62.0	68.0	69.0	1,805	1,650	1,600	111,910	112,200	110,400
N. C.	11	152.0	179.0	176.0	1,790	1,710	1,775	272,080	306,090	312,400
N. C.	12	188.0	229.0	200.0	2,110	2,155	2,150	396,680	493,495	430,000
N. C.	13	50.0	62.0	51.0	2,030	2,165	2,200	101,500	134,230	112,200
N. C. Total	11-13	390.0	470.0	427.0	1,975	1,987	2,001	770,260	933,815	854,600
S. C.	13	80.0	90.0	77.0	2,150	2,100	2,050	172,000	189,000	157,850
Georgia	14	72.0	75.0	68.0	2,235	2,010	1,800	160,920	150,750	122,400
Florida	14	11.7	13.5	13.5	2,145	2,080	2,150	25,097	28,080	29,025
Alabama	14	.6	.7	.6	1,810	1,700	1,700	1,140	1,190	1,088
U. S. TOTAL	11-14	616.3	717.2	655.1	2,014	1,973	1,947	1,241,327	1,415,035	1,275,363

RECORD CIGARETTE OUTPUT; TOBACCO EXPORTS DOWN

For the year ending next June, U. S. cigarette output is expected to exceed the record high 688 billion produced in 1975/76. Domestic use and exports also are increasing. Despite numerous no-smoking laws, persons 18 and older apparently will smoke about the same number of cigarettes in calendar 1976 as last year's 206 packs per capita. Total U. S. cigarette consumption may go up by 2 percent, in line with population growth. Chewing tobacco output continues upward. By contrast, the outlook for cigars, snuff, and smoking tobacco is for continuation of stable or declining trends.

Despite larger tobacco supplies, U. S. leaf exports for the year ending June 30, 1977, may not equal last year's reduced level of 588 million pounds (652 million, farm-sales weight). Stocks and production are gaining in other countries, and this year's U. S. flue-cured crop is selling at record high prices. While EC countries have been hurt by less favorable dollar conversion rates, Japan, our leading export destination, is expected to maintain its high levels of U. S. tobacco purchases. The Middle East is the chief area of possible expansion.

The supply of U. S. flue-cured tobacco is 3.2 billion pounds, about 3 percent above last year. The 1976 crop, estimated at 1.3 billion pounds, is down 10 percent, but the carryover into the current season was up 13 percent. During the past marketing year, as exports declined and domestic use gained, total use fell 1 percent. Not much change is expected this season. The 1976 crop marketings will exceed use, so the carryover next July 1 is expected to rise.

CORN *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

record crop. Crop prospects as of September 1 indicate an average yield per acre of 82.8 bushels, down 2.9 bushels from August 1. Average yield per acre was 86.2 bushels last year and 71.4 bushels in 1974. Yield prospects declined in all the major corn producing States with the exception of Indiana and Ohio where yields remained unchanged at 106 bushels and 97 bushels, respectively. Of the remaining major producing States, Iowa recorded an 8 bushel decrease; Nebraska and Missouri, 7; Illinois, 5; Minnesota, 4; and Wisconsin, 3 bushels.

Acreage intended for grain harvest is estimated at 71.2 million acres, down 1 million acres from August 1 but still more than 6 percent above last year. Minnesota and South Dakota farmers diverted substantial additional acreage to silage.

Dry weather and above normal temperatures resulted in crop deterioration in most of the North Central States. Temperature departures as high as 5 degrees above normal and no general rainfall to offset transpiration losses caused unabating stress on the crop throughout many of the North Central States.

DROUGHT PUTS STRESS ON U. S. ROW CROPS

Above normal August temperatures in much of the western North Central States placed additional stress on row crops. Elsewhere the nation had subnormal readings, a disadvantage to cotton. Soil moisture shortages persisted in almost every State except the Pacific Northwest, the Northeast States, and parts of States along the Gulf Coast. Severe drought conditions prevailed in several west North Central States. Development of the corn crop lagged last year except in the western Corn Belt where stressfully hot, dry conditions pushed the crop to an early maturity. Soybean plants yellowed and shed leaves permaturely in the driest areas. The soybean crop needs moisture to fill pods. Development exceeds recent years in most States and unseasonably high temperatures rushed the crop to an early maturity in some of the western North Central States. Texas cotton growers began picking in early August but harvest fell behind recent years. Picking began on a very limited scale in several other States. Small grain harvest advanced rapidly from Minnesota to Washington and Oregon. Other field crop harvests underway in various areas of the nation included corn and sorghum for grain and silage, peanuts, potatoes, rice and tobacco.

NORTH CAROLINA: Estimated Acreage, Yield and Production Of Crops, September 1, 1976, With Comparisons

CROPS	UNIT	HARVESTED ACRES			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
		1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976
		Thousands							*Thousands*	
Corn for Grain.....	Bu.	1,570	1,540	1,940	74.0	67.0	77.0	116,180	103,180	149,380
Wheat, Winter.....	Bu.	275	300	260	36.0	31.0	28.0	9,900	9,300	7,280
Oats.....	Bu.	85	85	95	53.0	50.0	43.0	4,505	4,250	4,085
Barley.....	Bu.	60	60	65	46.0	45.0	40.0	2,760	2,700	2,600
Rye.....	Bu.	20	20	20	20.0	18.0	18.0	400	360	360
Tobacco: Flue-Cured....	Lb.	390.0	470.0	427.0	1,975	1,987	2,001	770,260	933,815	854,600
Burley.....	Lb.	8.0	9.5	9.0	2,370	2,440	2,200	18,960	23,180	19,800
All Types.....	Lb.	398.0	479.5	436.0	1,983	1,996	2,006	789,220	956,995	874,400
Cotton 1/.....	Lb.	145	53	68	440	412	424	133	46	60
Sorghum for Grain.....	Bu.	80	80	90	52.0	51.0	50.0	4,160	4,080	4,500
Irish Potatoes: Spring.	Cwt.	13.0	12.0	13.0	165	160	145	2,145	1,920	1,885
Summer.	Cwt.	4.5	4.0	4.4	135	120	135	608	480	594
All....	Cwt.	17.5	16.0	17.4	157	150	142	2,753	2,400	2,479
Sweet Potatoes.....	Cwt.	29.0	31.0	34.0	135	145	135	3,915	4,495	4,590
Soybeans for Beans.....	Bu.	1,420	1,420	1,150	21.5	23.0	22.0	30,530	32,660	25,300
Peanuts for Nuts.....	Lb.	166	165	166	2,315	2,265	2,400	384,290	373,725	398,400
Hay: Alfalfa & Mixtures	Ton	13	13	15	2.35	2.60	2.50	31	34	38
All Other.....	Ton	312	312	335	1.60	1.60	1.50	499	499	503
All Kinds.....	Ton	325	325	350	1.63	1.64	1.55	530	533	541
Pasture Condition 2/...	%	3/ 86	73	64	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peaches, All.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	30,000	15,000
Apples, Commercial.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	295,000	280,000	275,000
Grapes, All.....	Ton	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.10	3.82	3.50
Pecans, Improved.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,500	1,000	1,400
Wild & Seedlings	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	700	1,200	1,600
All.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,200	2,200	3,000

1/ Production in 480-lb. NWB. 2/ Data shown for pastures represent condition, not acres. 3/ 1965-74 average condition on September 1.

UNITED STATES: Estimated Acreage, Yield and Production Of Crops, September 1, 1976, With Comparisons

CROPS	UNIT	HARVESTED ACRES			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
		1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976
		Thousands							*Thousands*	
Corn for Grain.....	Bu.	65,357	66,905	71,155	71.4	86.2	82.8	4,663,631	5,766,991	5,891,823
Wheat, Winter.....	Bu.	47,043	51,544	49,172	29.6	32.0	31.4	1,390,144	1,651,209	1,542,330
Wheat, All.....	Bu.	65,613	69,656	70,420	27.4	30.6	29.8	1,796,187	2,133,803	2,095,770
Oats.....	Bu.	13,206	13,650	12,716	46.5	48.1	44.4	613,777	656,862	563,997
Barley.....	Bu.	8,168	8,711	8,346	37.2	44.0	42.6	304,112	382,980	355,210
Rye.....	Bu.	897	814	851	21.5	22.0	20.4	19,293	17,875	17,382
Tobacco: Flue-cured.....	Lb.	616.3	717.2	655.1	2,014	1,973	1,947	1,241,327	1,415,035	1,275,363
Burley.....	Lb.	260.8	282.2	279.1	2,350	2,265	2,241	612,649	639,056	625,535
All Types.....	Lb.	962.6	1,086.4	1,022.4	2,067	2,009	1,991	1,989,728	2,181,937	2,035,292
Cotton 1/.....	Lb.	12,567	8,796	11,052	441	453	451	11,540	8,302	10,375
Sorghum for Grain.....	Bu.	13,876	15,484	14,849	45.3	49.0	47.8	629,222	758,454	710,449
Irish Potatoes: Spring..	Cwt.	103.4	84.5	99.4	242	237	245	25,032	19,994	24,330
Summer..	Cwt.	133.3	115.7	120.4	191	181	189	25,421	20,898	22,787
Sweet Potatoes.....	Cwt.	121.7	118.5	120.8	114	114	110	13,921	13,567	13,315
Soybeans for Beans.....	Bu.	52,368	53,606	49,401	23.2	28.4	25.8	1,214,802	1,521,370	1,274,263
Peanuts for Nuts.....	Lb.	1,472	1,504	1,512	2,491	2,565	2,503	3,667,604	3,857,122	3,783,665
Hay: Alfalfa & Mixtures.	Ton	26,817	27,057	26,647	2.78	2.87	2.60	74,672	77,761	69,191
All Other.....	Ton	33,754	34,806	34,512	1.55	1.58	1.48	52,471	55,156	51,124
All Kinds.....	Ton	60,571	61,863	61,159	2.10	2.15	1.97	127,143	132,917	120,315
Pasture Condition 2/....	%	3/ 77	76	61	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peaches, All.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,892,700	2,818,000	2,945,000
Apples, Commercial.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,484,000	7,087,100	6,186,200
Grapes, All.....	Ton	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,192	4,300	4,616
Pecans, Improved.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	85,600	110,100	70,200
Wild & Seedlings	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	51,500	136,700	42,400
All.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	137,100	246,800	112,600

1/ U. S. includes American-Pima. Production in 480-lb. NWB. 2/ Data shown for pastures represent condition, not acres.
3/ 1965-74 average condition on September 1.

N.C. PEANUT EXPECTATIONS UNCHANGED

Tar Heel peanuts are forecast at 398 million pounds, the same as the August outlook and up 7 percent from 1975. Yields are expected to average 2,400 pounds per acre compared with 2,265 pounds in 1975.

Peanut production in the Nation is forecast at 3,784 million pounds (net weight), down 3 percent from the August 1 forecast and 2 percent below the record of 3,857 million pounds produced in 1975. The indicated yield per acre of 2,503 pounds is down 62 pounds from last year. Acreage to be harvested for peanuts this year is placed at 1.5 million acres, 1 percent more than was harvested in 1975.

SWEET POTATO PROSPECTS SLIP

The State's sweet potato crop -- number one in the Nation -- deteriorated during August in response to the dry weather. Conditions around September 1 indicate total production at 4.6 million cwt. This is 4 percent lower than the August outlook but 2 percent higher than in 1975. Yields are expected to average 135 cwt. per acre, off 10 cwt. from the 1975 rate. Harvested acreage, which is expected to be about 10 percent higher, accounts for the increase over 1975 production.

The 1976 U. S. sweet potato crop is forecast at 13.3 million cwt., 1 percent below last month and 2 percent below the 13.6 million cwt. harvested in 1975. The average yield is forecast at 110 cwt. per acre, down 2 percent from August 1 and 4 percent below last year.

SUMMER IRISH POTATO PRODUCTION UP FROM 1975

The summer Irish potato crop in North Carolina is set at 594,000 cwt., unchanged from the August forecast and 24 percent over the 1975 output. At 135 cwt. per acre, average yield is expected to be 15 cwt. higher than realized last year.

The final forecast of the 1976 U. S. summer potato crop is set at 22.8 million cwt., down slightly from August 1 but 9 percent above the 20.9 million cwt. harvested the previous year.

END OF SEASON PEANUT STOCKS UP

Peanut stocks held commercially on July 31, 1976 totaled 818 million pounds of equivalent farmers' stocks, 31 percent more than end of season stocks a year ago. Actual farmers' stock peanuts accounted for 250 million pounds of this total, 20 percent more than last year. Actual farmers' stock includes that portion of 1,012 million pounds of 1975 crop CCC farmers' stock peanuts contracted for crushing that were not yet crushed. Shelled peanuts on hand at month's end totaled 537 million pounds of equivalent farmers' stock and roasting stock totaled 30 million pounds. There were no Commodity Credit Corporation uncommitted stocks on July 31 compared with 109 million pounds last year.

Shelled peanut stocks on July 31 totaled 404 million pounds of which 321 million pounds were edible grades and 83 million pounds were oil stocks. By types, edible grades consisted of nearly 69 million pounds of Virginias, 164 million pounds of Runners and just over 88 million pounds of Spanish. There were no edible grade peanuts in cold storage pending export on July 31 compared with 14 million pound in 1975.

PECAN PRODUCTION 36 PERCENT HIGHER THAN IN 1975

North Carolina pecans have been hit again this year by insects but damage is not believed to be as severe as last year. Based on conditions around September 1, production is set at 3 million pounds which is 36 percent higher than the 1975 total.

The 1976 U. S. pecan crop is forecast at 112.6 million pounds, 54 percent below last year and 18 percent less than the 1974 crop. This year's crop is the smallest since 1962 when 75.3 million pounds were harvested. All States except North Carolina expect smaller crops. The smaller crop is attributed to poor weather conditions during bloom and the dry summer which caused a heavier than normal drop. Insects have been more prevalent because of curtailed spray programs.

TAR HEEL COTTON PROSPECTS STABLE

The high tolerance that cotton has to dry weather helped to keep production prospects stable during August. The current forecast is set at 60,000 bales, up 30% from last year's crop but still the third-lowest of record. Yields are expected to average 424 pounds per acre, 12 pounds higher than the 1975 rate but 16 pounds lower than in 1974.

All cotton production in the Nation is forecast at 10.4 million bales, 25 percent above the 1975 crop, but 3 percent below the August 1 forecast. Expected production consists of 10.3 million bales of Upland and 57,200 bales of American-Pima. Cottonseed production in 1976, based on a three year average lint-seed ratio, is forecast at 4.0 million tons, 31 percent more than in 1975.

Production in the Southeastern States - Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina and North Carolina - is expected to total 750,000 bales, up 24 percent from 1975. Cotton prospects for most of the Southeastern States held steady or improved slightly.

N. C. FARM LABOR FORCE UP

North Carolina's farm labor force numbered 342,000 workers during the survey period of July 11-17 -- 26 percent above the comparable period of 1975. Farm operators plus unpaid family members, at 142,000, were up 4 percent from the previous year, while hired workers, at 200,000, were up 47.

Workers on farms in the United States during the week of July 11-17 totaled 5,474,100, a decrease of 1 percent from last year. Farm operators plus unpaid family members working 15 hours or more during the survey week were estimated at 3,382,700, while the hired worker force accounted for 2,091,400. Field and livestock workers estimated at 1,595,800 made up 76 percent of the hired work force.

U. S. wage rates for all methods of pay converted to an hourly rate averaged $2.53 during the survey week. Last year the average was $2.29 per hour. Hourly workers receiving only cash wages averaged $2.52 per hour or 21 cents more than a year ago. Wages for field and livestock workers averaged $2.37, up 23 cents from July 1975.

COTTON REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1976

STATE	ACRES HARVESTED			LINT PER ACRE			PRODUCTION 480-Lb. Net Wt. Bales		
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976
	Thousand Acres			*Pounds*			*Thousand Bales*		
UPLAND									
North Carolina	145	53	68	440	412	424	133	46	60
South Carolina	292	103	165	450	454	436	274	98	150
Georgia	410	160	240	490	443	440	419	148	220
Tennessee	510	315	390	290	339	246	308	222	200
Alabama	585	370	450	429	405	341	522	312	320
Missouri	330	210	255	335	449	348	230	196	185
Mississippi	1,710	1,100	1,530	448	454	417	1,595	1,040	1,330
Arkansas	1,130	680	1,000	374	485	346	880	687	720
Louisiana	635	310	545	423	535	458	560	346	520
Oklahoma	547	295	335	272	277	229	310	170	160
Texas	4,400	3,900	4,500	269	293	334	2,462	2,382	3,130
New Mexico	140	85	75	509	382	467	148	68	73
Arizona	392	268	318	1,218	1,027	1,117	995	573	740
California	1,238	875	1,120	1,006	1,072	1,071	2,595	1,954	2,500
Other 1/	20.3	6.1	9.2	449	393	522	19	5	10
U.S. UPLAND 2/	12,484	8,730	11,000	440	453	450	11,450	8,247	10,318
U.S. AM. PIMA 3/	82.3	65.9	51.5	526	397	533	90	55	57
U.S. ALL	12,567	8,796	11,052	441	453	451	11,540	8,302	10,375

1/ Virginia, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky and Nevada. 2/ Sum of State totals above. 3/ Includes total American Pima in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California; not included in individual State data above.

RECORD AUGUST PRODUCTION PER COW

Production of milk in North Carolina during August totaled an estimated 139 million pounds, an increase of 3 percent from a year earlier and up 9 percent from August 1974. Milk produced per cow was 900 pounds, a record high for August and 25 pounds above the same month a year earlier. Milk cows on farms at 154,000 were unchanged from August 1975.

U. S. milk production in August 1976 of 10.1 billion pounds was 5.7 percent above a year ago and 4.3 percent above August 1974. Average production per cow at 917 pounds was 56 pounds more than a year earlier and 50 pounds above August 1974. Production per cow continues at a high level in spite of the drought conditions in the major producing North Central area. The increase in rate per cow was only partially offset by an 0.8 percent decline from a year earlier in the number of milk cows -- estimated at 11,047,000 for August.

The August U. S. milk-feed price ratio, at 1.51, was 6.3 percent above the July ratio as milk prices were up and feed prices down. The August ratio was 11.0 percent above that of a year earlier due to increased milk prices which more than offset a slight increase in feed prices from a year ago.

MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION -- AUGUST

STATE	MILK COWS ON FARMS 1/			MILK PER COW 2/			MILK PRODUCTION			
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1976 As % Of 1975
	Thousands			*Pounds*			*Million Pounds*			*Percent*
N. C.	152	154	154	845	875	900	128	135	139	103
Va.	159	158	163	935	950	940	149	150	153	102
Md.	136	141	143	910	910	970	124	128	139	109
Ga.	130	129	128	740	714	780	96	92	100	109
Fla.	199	197	200	750	775	770	149	153	154	101
U. S.	11,206	11,139	11,047	867	861	917	9,710	9,588	10,132	106

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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NORTH CAROLINA **Farm Report**

Federal - State
Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

No. 714 October 8, 1976

SOWS TO FARROW INCREASE

North Carolina hog producers plan to farrow 95,000 sows during the September-November quarter, 14 percent more than the same period during 1975. Intentions to farrow during December 1976 - February 1977 are up 7 percent from the comparable period last year to 124,000 sows.

The estimate of all hogs and pigs on Tar Heel farms September 1, 1976 is 2,050,000 head, an increase of 13 percent from a year earlier. Of this September 1, 1976 total, 320,000 head are being kept for breeding and 1,730,000 head are being kept for market. The breeding hogs are up 12 percent from last year and the market hogs up 14 percent.

Sows that farrowed during the June-August quarter totaled 116,000, an increase of 23 percent from the same quarter a year earlier. There were 870,000 pigs born from these sows for an average litter size of 7.5 pigs.

Inventory of hogs and pigs on September 1, 1976 in the 14 States conducting Quarterly hog surveys is estimated at 48.7 million head, up 17 percent from a year earlier. Breeding hog numbers increased 13 percent while the market hog inventory rose 18 percent over a year ago. Despite this year's increase, the present hog in-

(See Sows To Farrow, Page 6)

FOOD MARKETING SPREADS BROADEN

Farm-retail spreads for a market basket of farm foods increased about 1 percent in July, continuing the upward movement since April.

Returns to farmers for these foods

(See Food Marketing, Page 5)

SEPTEMBER PRICE INDEX INCREASES

The ''All Farm Products'' index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets during September is 185 (1967 = 100), an increase of 6 points from August and up 2 points from September 1975.

The September ''All Crops'' index, at 187, is up 10 points from August. Oil bearing crops show a rise of 14 points, while grains are down 25 points.

The ''Livestock and Livestock Products'' index decreased 3 points from August. Meat animals dropped 8 points and poultry was off 1 point, but the dairy index rose 2 points. (See Table, Page 2.)

N. C. HONEY PRODUCTION DROPS

Early spring frost in several areas of North Carolina caused an unfavorable climate for honey production this year. Commercial beekeepers with 300 or more colonies of bees expect to produce 328,000 pounds of honey during 1976. This is 120,000 pounds or 27 percent below last year's production.

Commercial apiaries reported 8,000 colonies, up 1,000 from 1975. The yield per colony, however, is expected to average 41 pounds, down from the 64 pound average in 1975.

Honey production from commercial apiaries with 300 or more colonies in the 20 major honey producing States is expected to total 106 million pounds in 1976, about 1 percent below last year but 5 percent more than the 1974 production.

The colonies of bees held by the commercial apiaries in 1976 are estimated at 1.8 million compared with 1.7

(See Honey Production, Page 7)

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DOWN 1 POINT PRICES PAID INDEX UNCHANGED

The Index of Prices Received by U. S. Farmers decreased 1 point (½ percent) to 186 percent of its January-December 1967 average during the month ended September 15, 1976. Contributing most to the decrease since mid-August were lower prices for hogs, potatoes, cattle, oranges and wheat. Higher prices for soybeans, cotton and milk were partially offsetting. The index was 13 points (7 percent) below a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates for September 15 was 195, unchanged from a month earlier. Lower feeder livestock prices offset price increases for other index conponents. The index was 9 points (5 percent) above a year earlier.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARM PRICES INDEX NUMBERS

INDEX (1967 = 100)	Sep. 15 1973	Sep. 15 1974	Sep. 15 1975	Aug. 15 1976	Sep. 15 1976
NORTH CAROLINA					
Prices Received: All Farm Products....	3/ 170	3/ 175	183	179	185
All Crops.....	3/ 149	3/ 180	171	177	187
Tobacco.....	137	166	3/ 160	163	182
Cotton.....	209	3/ 205	192	242	4/
Oil Bearing.....	195	221	194	207	221
Grains.....	165	234	200	205	180
Commercial Vegetables.....	3/ 152	3/ 159	3/ 199	3/ 189	161
Fruits.....	3/ 140	3/ 155	210	237	223
Livestock and Livestock Products.....	207	167	3/ 205	184	181
Meat Animals.....	227	3/ 168	235	196	188
Poultry.....	219	169	204	184	183
Dairy.....	3/ 143	3/ 159	3/ 161	164	166
UNITED STATES					
Prices Received, All Farm Products.....	191	3/ 181	3/ 199	187	186
Prices Paid, Commodities & Services 1/.	3/ 155	3/ 175	3/ 186	195	195
Parity Ratio 2/.....	3/ 123	3/ 103	3/ 107	96	95

1/ Including Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid. 3/ Revised. 4/ Discontinued.

CROP, LIVESTOCK, AND FEED PRICES MIXED

Average prices received for crops by Tar Heel farmers at local markets about mid-September were mixed compared to a month earlier. (See Table, Page 3.) Corn was down 34 cents per bushel to $2.47, and oats was down one cent per bushel to $1.50. Soybeans, at $6.74, rose 66 cents per bushel.

Prices received for livestock generally declined. Hogs were down from August $1.60 per hundredweight to $41.80. Beef cattle were off $1.00 and veal calves were down 70 cents per hundredweight. Milk cows remained steady at $320.00 per head.

Prices North Carolina farmers paid for feed during September varied. (See Table, Page 3.) Mixed dairy feed with 16 percent protein, at $145.00 per ton, remained unchanged from August; however, feed with 32 percent protein rose $5.00 per ton. Broiler grower was up $2.00 per ton and laying feed was unchanged. In the high protein feeds category, soybean meal (44 percent protein) and cottonseed meal (41 percent protein) both increased 50 cents per hundredweight to $12.50 and $12.00 respectively.

COMMODITY PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		Sep. 15 1975	Aug. 15 1976	Sep. 15 1976*	Sep. 15 1975	Aug. 15 1976	Sep. 15 1976*
		Dollars					
Tobacco	Lb.	1.042	1.070	1.195	1.042	1.087	1,190
Corn	Bu.	2.71	2.81	2.47	2.76	2.64	2.60
Wheat	Bu.	3.15	-	-	4.11	2.97	2.84
Oats	Bu.	1.47	1.51	1.50	1.45	1.48	1.49
Barley	Bu.	1.97	-	-	2.69	2.35	2.33
Rye	Bu.	2.24	-	-	2.54	-	-
Sorghum Grains	Cwt.	4.46	-	-	4.56	4.03	4.20
Soybeans	Bu.	5.49	6.08	6.74	5.32	6.07	6.65
Cotton	Lb.	2/ .480	-	-	.472	.604	.625
Wool	Lb.	-	-	-	.462	.665	.688
Hogs	Cwt.	57.00	43.40	41.80	2/58.60	42.60	39.70
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	2/22.90	26.70	25.70	2/34.00	32.80	32.40
Veal Calves	Cwt.	26.50	31.40	30.70	2/ 26.90	34.50	33.10
Milk Cows	Hd.	300.00	320.00	320.00	413.00	474.00	479.00
Com'l. Broilers	Lb.	.290	.245	.230	2/ .296	.243	.231
Turkeys	Lb.	.400	.350	.330	2/ .363	.309	.305
Eggs 1/	Doz.	.667	.688	.709	.558	.606	.621
Milk, Whlse	Cwt.	2/10.70	10.50	10.60	2/9.25	9.75	9.85
Potatoes	Cwt.	2/ 6.75	6.00	5.95	2/4.04	4.16	3.24
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt.	2/ 4.65	-	4.50	2/6.48	7.74	6.56
Apples, Com'l.	Lb.	2/ .075	.152	.139	.117	.123	.132
Hay, All	Ton	52.00	-	-	50.80	58.70	60.80
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	57.50	-	-	54.10	63.40	65.30
Other	Ton	52.00	-	-	43.80	47.80	49.40

1/ Average of all eggs sold by farmers including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail by farmers. 2/ Revised. * Preliminary.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

TYPE OF FEED	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	Sep. 15 1975	Aug. 15 1976	Sep. 15 1976	Sep. 15 1975	Aug. 15 1976	Sep. 15 1976
	Per Ton - Dollars					
Mixed Dairy Feed						
14% Protein	135.00	141.00	142.00	133.00	138.00	138.00
16% Protein	139.00	145.00	145.00	135.00	144.00	147.00
32% Protein	167.00	179.00	184.00	175.00	201.00	208.00
Poultry Feeds						
Chick Starter	168.00	178.00	176.00	168.00	183.00	183.00
Broiler Grower	175.00	177.00	179.00	164.00	177.00	179.00
Laying Feed 1/	156.00	157.00	157.00	149.00	158.00	159.00
Turkey Grower 1/	168.00	178.00	179.00	170.00	181.00	181.00
	Per 100 Lbs. - Dollars					
Grain By-Products						
Bran	7.20	7.80	7.60	7.11	7.51	7.65
Middlings	7.20	7.10	7.40	7.01	7.38	7.53
Corn Meal	7.20	7.30	6.80	7.23	7.09	7.08
High Protein Feeds						
Cottonseed Meal 41%	9.40	11.50	12.00	9.27	11.40	11.60
Soybean Meal 44%	9.10	12.00	12.50	9.24	11.70	12.20

1/ Complete ration feeds which are fed without further mixing or supplementations.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION INCREASES

Commercial hatcheries in North Carolina produced 31,185,000 chicks during August 1976, up 16 percent from a year earlier. The August hatch was composed of 30,185,000 broiler-type and 1,000,000 egg-type chicks compared with 26,298,000 broiler-type and 483,000 egg-type chicks during August last year.

For the United States, the August hatch was up 10 percent from a year earlier for broiler-type chicks and up 9 percent for egg-type chicks. The number of broiler-type eggs in incubators on September 1 increased 9 percent from August 1975 for the nation and rose 11 percent for the South Atlantic States. The number of egg-type eggs in incubators on September 1 was up 10 percent for the nation and up 30 percent for the South Atlantic region.

CHICKS HATCHED -- AUGUST

STATE	BROILER-TYPE		EGG-TYPE		ALL TYPES	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands					
NORTH CAROLINA	26,298	30,185	483	1,000	26,781	31,185
South Carolina	2,058	2,456	733	709	2,791	3,165
Georgia	38,602	41,054	3,117	3,982	41,719	45,036
Florida	6,613	7,241	2,866	3,346	9,479	10,587
Delaware	12,054	14,435	1/	1/	12,054	14,435
Maryland	17,574	18,979	1/	1/	17,574	18,979
Virginia	7,392	8,334	606	545	7,998	8,879
UNITED STATES	268,288	293,958	34,934	38,135	303,222	332,093

1/ Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations.

U. S. POULT HATCH DOWN 6 PERCENT

The U. S. commercial hatch of turkey poults during August 1976 at 8.1 million was 6 percent below August 1975. The hatch of heavy breeds was down 5 percent from the same month last year to 7.0 million poults and light breed poults hatched were down 12 percent to 1.2 million.

The number of turkey eggs in incubators on September 1, 1976, at 6.3 million, was 2 percent below last year. Eggs set for heavy breed turkeys were up 3 percent from last year but light breeds were down 28 percent.

MORE TURKEY BREEDER HENS

Turkey breeder flock owners in North Carolina reported at the beginning of the 1977 hatching season that they expect to keep 7 percent more breeder hens than during the previous year.

Turkey breeder flock owners in 26 major producing States reported that they expect to have 1 percent more breeder hens in their flocks December 1, 1976, than were on hand a year earlier. Flock owners expect to increase heavy breed flocks by nearly 3 percent but decrease light breed flocks 10 percent.

POULTS HATCHED -- AUGUST

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION (U. S.)	HEAVY BREEDS 1/		LIGHT BREEDS 2/		ALL BREEDS	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands					
North Atlantic	117	84	20	18	137	102
East North Central	1,387	1,418	90	85	1,477	1,503
West North Central	1,394	1,277	889	715	2,283	1,992
South Atlantic	1,914	1,985	294	260	2,208	2,245
South Central	568	541	0	0	568	541
West	1,949	1,663	26	85	1,975	1,748
UNITED STATES	7,329	6,968	1,319	1,163	8,648	8,131

1/ Birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is 12 pounds or over.
2/ Birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is less than 12 pounds.

AUGUST EGG PRODUCTION SLIGHTLY HIGHER

Egg production in North Carolina during August was estimated at 231 million eggs, up slightly from the 228 million produced a year earlier. The number of hens and pullets of laying age on hand during the month averaged 11,350,000 compared with 11,450,000 a year earlier. Rate of lay per 100 layers averaged 2,031 eggs versus 1,990 eggs laid during August 1975.

The nation's laying flocks produced 5.4 billion eggs during August, slightly below the previous month and a year ago. The number of layers during August and eggs produced per 100 layers were virtually unchanged from a year earlier.

NUMBER OF LAYERS AND EGG PRODUCTION -- AUGUST

STATE	LAYERS ON HAND		EGGS PER 100 LAYERS		TOTAL EGGS PRODUCED	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands		*Number*		*Millions*	
NORTH CAROLINA	11,450	11,350	1,990	2,031	228	231
Virginia	3,251	3,409	2,046	2,027	67	69
South Carolina	5,960	4,750	2,006	2,108	120	100
Georgia	22,400	23,248	2,009	1,990	450	463
Florida	11,692	12,040	2,009	1,990	235	240
UNITED STATES	271,312	270,319	1,991	1,990	5,402	5,378

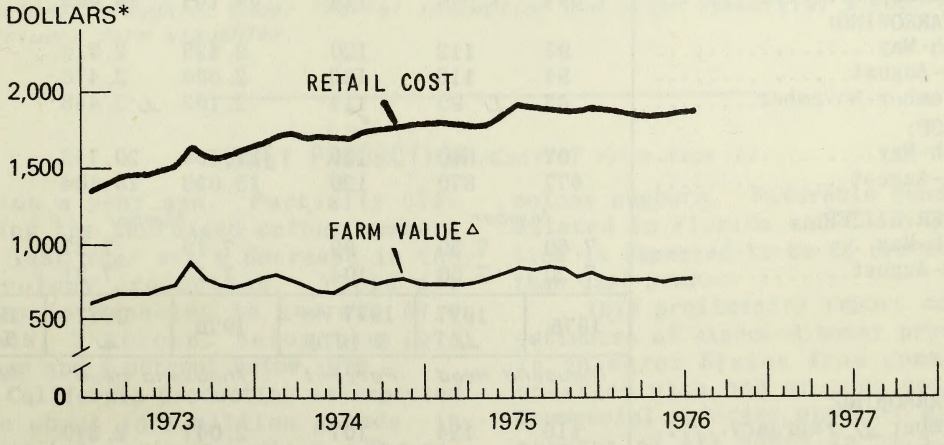
FOOD MARKETING *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

dropped 0.5 percent in July, while retail prices for these foods increased 0.5 percent in July.

Spreads for both beef and pork increased sharply in July as prices for meat animals declined with little change in prices at retail. In contrast, spreads decreased substantially for poultry and oilseed products while returns to farmers for these products increased sharply.

On a year-to-year basis, the July 1976 farm-retail spread averaged 4.5 percent above the year before, with the retail cost of the market basket down about 1 percent and the farm value down about 8 percent.

SPREADS AND RETAIL COSTS UP SLIGHTLY THIS SUMMER



* ANNUAL RATE PER HOUSEHOLD.

△ THE FARM VALUE IS THE GROSS RETURN TO FARMERS FOR EQUIVALENT AMOUNTS OF THESE FOODS.

SOWS TO FARROW (Cont'd. From Page 1)

ventory remains 3 percent below the September 1, 1974 level. The number kept for breeding at 6.8 million head is up 13 percent from 1975, and virtually the same as 1974. The number for market at 41.9 million is up 18 percent from 1975 but 3 percent below 1974.

The June-August 1976 pig crop in the 14 States totaled 18.1 million head, 21 percent above the previous year and 6 percent above the same period two years ago. There were 2.5 million sows farrowed in the 14 States during this period, up 19 percent from the corresponding period in 1975, and 2 percent above the June-August 1974 period. Average litter size was 7.31 for the three months, compared with 7.19 a year earlier and 7.07 for the same period two years ago.

Producers in the 14 States intend to have 2.4 million sows farrowed in the September-November 1976 period, 16 percent more than in the 1975 period and 7 percent more than 1974. Farrowing intentions reported for the December 1976 - February 1977 quarter totaled 2.2 million sows, 9 percent more than actual farrowings for the comparable period ending February 1976. If realized, that level of farrowings would be 26 percent above the comparable period ending with February 1975.

HOGS AND PIGS: SEPTEMBER 1, 1976 REPORT, NUMBER ON FARMS, SOWS FARROWING, AND PIG CROP, 1975-1976

PIG CROP	NORTH CAROLINA			14 STATES*		
	1975	1976	1976 As % 1975	1975	1976	1976 As % 1975
	Thousand Head		*Percent*	*Thousand Head*		*Percent*
NUMBER ON FARMS SEPTEMBER 1:						
All Hogs and Pigs.....	1,810	2,050	113	41,535	48,695	117
Kept for Breeding.....	286	320	112	6,011	6,814	113
Market.....	1,524	1,730	114	35,524	41,881	118
Market Hogs And Pigs By Weight Groups:						
Under 60 Pounds.....	701	804	115	14,397	17,025	118
60-119 Pounds.....	364	407	112	8,990	10,655	119
120-179 Pounds.....	264	301	114	7,182	8,433	117
180-219 Pounds.....	149	168	113	4,157	4,857	117
220 Pounds and Over.....	46	50	109	798	911	114
NUMBER ON FARMS JUNE 1:						
All Hogs and Pigs.....	1,660	1,950	117	40,955	44,918	110
Kept for Breeding.....	266	312	117	6,191	6,916	112
Market.....	1,394	1,638	118	34,764	38,002	109
SOWS FARROWING:						
March-May.....	93	112	120	2,428	2,815	116
June-August.....	94	116	123	2,088	2,476	119
September-November.....	83	1/ 95	114	2,103	1/ 2,448	116
PIG CROP:						
March-May.....	707	840	119	17,469	20,743	119
June-August.....	677	870	129	15,020	18,104	121
PIGS PER LITTER:	*Number*			*Number*		
March-May.....	7.60	7.50	99	7.19	7.37	103
June-August.....	7.20	7.50	104	7.19	7.31	102
	1976	1977 1/	1977 As % 1976	1976	1977 1/	1977 As % 1976
	Thousand Head		*Percent*	*Thousand Head*		*Percent*
SOWS FARROWING:						
December 2/-February.....	116	124	107	2,047	2,240	109

*1/ Intentions. 2/ December preceding year. * Includes Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minn., Missouri, Nebraska, N. C., Ohio, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin.*

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER UP 7 PERCENT

Commercial slaughter of livestock in the Tar Heel State during August 1976 totaled 46,231,000 pounds live weight, an increase of 7 percent from August a year earlier. The live weight of cattle slaughtered was 14,656,000 pounds, down 3 percent from last year while calf slaughter was off 9 percent. Hog kill, at 31,414,000 pounds live weight, was up 13 percent. The live weight of sheep and lambs slaughtered was up slightly.

Commercial production of red meat in the United States totaled nearly 3.4 billion pounds in August, 17 percent more than a year ago and 7 percent above August 1974. Total red meat output for January-August 1976 was up 7 percent from 1975. Change by individual components: Beef, up 11 percent; veal, up 3 percent; pork, virtually unchanged; lamb and mutton, down 10 percent. Commercial meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER 1/

SPECIES	AUGUST				JANUARY THROUGH AUGUST			
	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	NORTH CAROLINA							
	Thous. Head		*Thous. Lbs.*		*Thous. Head*		*Thous. Lbs.*	
Cattle	17.4	16.0	15,051	14,656	130.4	139.7	114,825	126,866
Calves	.7	.7	166	151	4.5	5.7	1,064	1,412
Sheep & Lambs	.1	.1	8	10	.4	.5	34	49
Hogs	127.0	139.0	27,813	31,414	1,106.0	1,106.0	246,307	248,550
TOTAL	145.2	155.8	43,038	46,231	1,241.3	1,251.9	362,230	376,877
	UNITED STATES							
	Million Head		*Million Lbs.*		*Million Head*		*Million Lbs.*	
Cattle	3.5	3.7	3,401	3,737	26.2	28.2	26,209	28,719
Calves	.5	.4	131	118	3.1	3.4	887	907
Sheep & Lambs	.6	.6	66	62	5.2	4.4	535	476
Hogs	4.9	6.2	1,154	1,464	46.4	45.6	11,063	10,833
TOTAL	9.5	10.9	4,752	5,381	80.9	81.6	38,694	40,935

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

HONEY PRODUCTION *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

million a year ago. Partially offsetting the increased colony numbers from last year was a decrease in the per colony production. Yield per colony is expected to average 57.6 pounds, 7 percent below the 1975 average and 4 percent below 1974.

California production is expected to be about 16.6 million pounds, 15 percent below a year earlier. The extremely dry conditions reduced yields which more than offset the increase in colony numbers. Favorable conditions existed in Florida and honey production is expected to be 24 percent more than last year.

This preliminary report contains estimates of expected honey production in 20 major States from commercial apiaries with 300 or more colonies. Commercial apiaries produced about 55 percent of all honey in 1975. (See Table, Page 8.)

HONEY: Commercial Production In Apiaries With 300 Or More Colonies In 20 Major States, 1975-76

STATE	COLONIES OF BEES			YIELD PER COLONY		HONEY PRODUCTION		
	1975	1976	1976 As % Of 1975	1975	1976	1975	1976	1976 As % Of 1975
	Thousands		*Percent*	*Pounds*		*Thousand Pounds*		*Percent*
Arizona.....	47	46	98	45	59	2,115	2,714	128
California....	390	425	109	50	39	19,500	16,575	85
Colorado.....	30	31	103	73	67	2,190	2,077	95
Florida.....	132	135	102	80	97	10,560	13,095	124
Georgia.....	72	85	118	44	25	3,168	2,125	67
Idaho.....	96	101	105	44	33	4,224	3,333	79
Illinois.....	10	8	80	42	65	420	520	124
Iowa.....	37	43	116	90	83	3,330	3,569	107
Michigan.....	57	57	100	55	50	3,135	2,850	91
Minnesota.....	105	120	114	85	83	8,925	9,960	112
Montana.....	75	83	111	95	112	7,125	9,296	130
Nebraska.....	126	127	101	51	53	6,426	6,731	105
New York.....	49	54	110	63	43	3,087	2,322	75
North Carolina	7	8	114	64	41	448	328	73
North Dakota..	82	91	111	94	110	7,708	10,010	130
Oregon.....	21	26	124	45	34	945	884	94
South Dakota..	150	146	97	71	47	10,650	6,862	64
Texas.....	104	120	115	72	45	7,488	5,400	72
Washington....	77	73	95	37	28	2,849	2,044	72
Wisconsin.....	66	69	105	45	82	2,970	5,658	191
20 STATES.....	1,733	1,848	107	62.0	57.6	107,263	106,353	99

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NORTH CAROLINA Farm Report

Federal - State
Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

No. 715 October 20, 1976

IMPROVED SOIL MOISTURE HELPS CROPS

The two-month drought which began in mid July finally ended. General rainfall covered most of the State on a fairly regular basis during the period from mid-September through early October. As of October 9, soil moisture averaged mostly adequate. Some heavy rainfall in early October caused much of the Mountains to have adequate to mostly surplus soil moisture. A block of about twenty counties in the east central part of the State had mostly short to adequate moisture while the rest of the State averaged mostly adequate.

Much of the field work during the last half of September and early October consisted of harvesting activities. Flue-cured tobacco harvest continued in some areas through the period. Marketing was very active along with the disease and pest control practice of cutting and disking stalks followed by seeding of a cover crop. Burley harvest was active during the period and, as of October 9, 94 percent of the crop had

(See General, Page 2)

FLUE-CURED FORECAST HIGHER

Based on marketing data and reports from growers, total North Carolina flue-cured production is set at 865 million pounds as of October 1. This is 1 percent higher than the September 1 forecast but 7 percent below the unusually large 1975 crop. The increase from September in expected poundage is due entirely to a larger estimate for Type 12. Yield for the State's brightleaf crop is expected to average 2,025 pounds per acre--2 percent higher than last year.

Flue-cured tobacco production in

(See Tobacco, Page 2)

N. C. CORN OUTLOOK IMPROVES

Reports from growers about October 1 indicated that North Carolina's corn crop will reach about 155 million bushels this year. This is 4 percent over the September outlook and 50 percent larger than the 1975 crop. Yields are expected to average 80 bushels per acre compared to 67 bushels last year and 74 bushels in 1974. If realized, this year's yield will equal the second highest yield of record.

U. S. production of corn for grain is forecast at a record 5,865 million bushels. This is a 0.5 percent (27 million bushels) decrease from the September 1 forecast but 2 percent above

(See Corn, Page 2)

SOYBEAN PROSPECTS DECLINE

North Carolina soybean prospects declined for the second consecutive month. Dry weather and insects have damaged the crop and, although rains brought some relief the last half of September, it was not enough to offset earlier declines. Production is now expected to total 24.2 million bushels, based on reports from growers around October 1. This is 5 percent less than the September forecast and 26 percent below the 1975 output. Yields are expected to average 21 bushels per acre, the lowest since the drought reduced crop of 1968.

Soybean production in the U. S. is forecast at 1,250 million bushels, down 18 percent from the 1975 crop but 3 percent above the 1974 level. The October 1 condition of the U. S. soybean crop indicates a yield of 25.3 bushels per acre, compared with 28.4 bushels last year and 23.2 bushels in 1974.

Soybean prospects declined 2 per-

(See Soybeans, Page 7)

CORN *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

last year.

Acreage for grain harvest is estimated at 71.0 million acres, down 200,000 acres, (0.3 percent) from last month but still 6 percent above 1975. A continued shift in utilization from grain to silage in Minnesota accounts for the change.

Average yield per acre is forecast at 82.7 bushels, down 0.1 bushel from last month and 3.5 bushels below last year.

As of October 1, approximately 21 percent of the United States corn crop had been harvested, surpassing last year's 19 percent and the average of 17 percent. Combining was the most advanced in the Western Corn Belt and the South Atlantic States.

TOBACCO *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

the U. S. is forecast at 1,285 million pounds, 10 million above that indicated on September 1 but 130 million pounds below the 1975 outturn.

BURLEY PROSPECTS LOWER

Prospects for the N. C. burley crop declined for the second straight month. The October 1 outlook is for 18.9 million pounds. This is 5 percent below last month's forecast and 18 percent less than the 1975 output. The average yield is now set at 2,100 pounds per acre compared to 2,440 pounds last year.

U. S. burley output is forecast at 629 million, 4 million pounds more than the September 1 forecast, but 2 percent below 1975's production.

GENERAL *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

been cut. This equaled the progress of 1975.

Corn picking ran well ahead of normal during the latter part of September and early October. As of October 9, 74 percent of the corn for grain had been harvested compared to 62 percent both last year and on the average. About 90 percent of the corn for silage had been cut.

Soybean conditions during early October averaged mostly fair for the State. Early planted beans were generally better than those which were double cropped. Leaves were yellowing in many eastern North Carolina fields and a small amount of harvesting began in early October. Corn ear worms have caused extensive damage in some areas this season.

Peanut harvest got off to a slow start this year and, as of October 9, 39 percent of the crop had been dug compared to 60 percent last year. Threshing was 22 percent complete whereas last year's pace was 36 percent and the average is 45 percent. Cotton harvest also got off to a slower than normal start. As of October 9, about 5 percent of the crop had been picked compared to approximately the same amount last year. The average is 18 percent.

Sweet potato harvest made good progress in early October after lagging last year's pace in the early going. As of October 9, 52 percent of the crop had been dug compared to 47 percent last year. Apple harvest also made good progress with three-fourths of the crop picked by October 9.

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO, BY TYPE, OCTOBER 1, 1976

STATE	TYPE	HARVESTED ACRES			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
		1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976
		Thousands			*Pounds*			*Thousand Pounds*		
Virginia	11	62.0	68.0	69.0	1,805	1,650	1,600	111,910	112,200	110,400
N. C.	11	152.0	179.0	176.0	1,790	1,710	1,775	272,080	306,090	312,400
N. C.	12	188.0	229.0	200.0	2,110	2,155	2,200	396,680	493,495	440,000
N. C.	13	50.0	62.0	51.0	2,030	2,165	2,200	101,500	134,230	112,200
N. C. Total	11-13	390.0	470.0	427.0	1,975	1,987	2,025	770,260	933,815	864,600
S. C.	13	80.0	90.0	77.0	2,150	2,100	2,050	172,000	189,000	157,850
Georgia	14	72.0	75.0	68.0	2,235	2,010	1,800	160,920	150,750	122,400
Florida	14	11.7	13.5	13.5	2,145	2,080	2,150	25,097	28,080	29,025
Alabama	14	.6	.7	.6	1,810	1,700	1,700	1,140	1,190	1,088
U. S. TOTAL	11-14	616.3	717.2	655.1	2,014	1,973	1,962	1,241,327	1,415,035	1,285,363

TOBACCO SUPPLY HIGHER

This year's U. S. tobacco production is below 1975 due to lower quotas and dry weather. However, carry-over is a little larger than first forecast, increasing the supply for the 1976-77 marketing year by 2 percent. With the exception of certain grades and kinds, the supply--at 5.3 billion pounds--will be generally adequate.

The September 1 estimate of U. S. tobacco output is 2.0 billion pounds, down 7 percent from 1975, in part due to a 6-percent smaller acreage. Carry-over of tobacco into the 1976-77 marketing year (beginning July 1 for flue-cured and cigar wrapper types, October 1 for all others) is up 8 percent.

Worldwide, the tobacco industry is expected to show another gain in sales volume, but total disappearance of U. S. tobacco in 1976-77 may change little from the 1.94 billion pounds of the marketing year now ending. U. S. cigarette production is expected to gain, but U. S. tobacco, particularly flue-cured, may continue to lose out in foreign markets. Burley could get another boost from the worldwide surge in demand for blended cigarettes.

For the year ending next June, U. S. cigarette output is expected to exceed the record high 688 billion produced in 1975-76. Domestic use and exports are also increasing. Despite numerous no-smoking laws, persons 18 and older apparently will smoke about the same number of cigarettes in calendar 1976 as last year's 206 packs per capita. Total U. S. cigarette consumption may go up by 2 percent in line with population growth. Chewing tobacco output continues upward. By contrast, the outlook for cigars, snuff, and smoking tobacco is for continuation of stable or declining trends.

RECORD 1976 FEED GRAIN PRODUCTION

August 1 indications for 1976 production of the four major feed grains (corn, sorghum, oats, barley) were for 212 million short tons, 5 percent more than in 1975 and 4 percent more than the previous record output in 1973.

The increase in total feed grain production and supply is due mainly to a prospective record corn crop of 6.2 billion bushels, 7 percent more than the record harvest last year. The indicated 1976 sorghum crop at about 790 million bushels is up by 4 percent. But both the oat and barley crops are expected to be substantially smaller.

Harvests of this size would provide a feed grain supply of about 229 million short tons, 4 percent more than the 1975/76 supply of 220 million tons. This supply would be more than adequate to cover domestic use, projected to range from the same as in 1975/76 to 10 percent larger, and exports, which may range from about the same as the record large exports in 1975/76 to around 18 percent below. Feed grain use at these levels would leave carry-over stocks next year a little higher than last year's and the expected 1975/76 carryover of 7 million tons, with the range of possibilities running from a little less to nearly double that figure.

A large wheat supply, coupled with early season prospects of weaker export demand, have contributed to wheat prices declining to near or below those of feed grains in the winter wheat producing areas that are deficit in feed grains. Thus, wheat feeding is expected to be the largest in several years and will likely displace some feed grains in rations.

SWEET POTATOES IMPROVED

The State's sweet potato production is forecast at 4.8 million cwt., based on conditions around October 1. This is 4 percent higher than expected last month and 6 percent greater than the 1975 total. Rains during the second half of September helped to boost prospects and, now that harvest is near the half-way point, growers have a better feeling for their potential production. Yields are expected to average 140 cwt. per acre which is 5 cwt. above the September expectations but 5 cwt. less than realized last year.

The final U. S. production forecast for 1976 sweet potatoes is placed at 13.8 million cwt., up 4 percent from the September 1 forecast and 2 percent above the 1975 crop.

NORTH CAROLINA: Estimated Acreage, Yield and Production Of Crops, October 1, 1976, With Comparisons

CROPS	UNIT	HARVESTED ACRES			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
		1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976
		Thousands			*Units*			*Thousands*		
Corn for Grain.....	Bu.	1,570	1,540	1,940	74.0	67.0	80.0	116,180	103,180	155,200
Wheat, Winter.....	Bu.	275	300	260	36.0	31.0	28.0	9,900	9,300	7,280
Oats.....	Bu.	85	85	95	53.0	50.0	43.0	4,505	4,250	4,085
Barley.....	Bu.	60	60	65	46.0	45.0	40.0	2,760	2,700	2,600
Rye.....	Bu.	20	20	20	20.0	18.0	18.0	400	360	360
Tobacco: Flue-Cured....	Lb.	390.0	470.0	427.0	1,975	1,987	2,025	770,260	933,815	864,600
Burley.....	Lb.	8.0	9.5	9.0	2,370	2,440	2,100	18,960	23,180	18,900
All Types.....	Lb.	398.0	479.5	436.0	1,983	1,996	2,026	789,220	956,995	883,500
Cotton 1/.....	Lb.	145	53	68	440	412	424	133	46	60
Sorghum for Grain.....	Bu.	80	80	90	52.0	51.0	50.0	4,160	4,080	4,500
Irish Potatoes: Spring.	Cwt.	13.0	12.0	13.0	165	160	145	2,145	1,920	1,885
Summer.	Cwt.	4.5	4.0	4.4	135	120	135	608	480	594
All....	Cwt.	17.5	16.0	17.4	157	150	142	2,753	2,400	2,479
Sweet Potatoes.....	Cwt.	29.0	31.0	34.0	135	145	140	3,915	4,495	4,760
Soybeans for Beans.....	Bu.	1,420	1,420	1,150	21.5	23.0	21.0	30,530	32,660	24,150
Peanuts for Nuts.....	Lb.	166	165	166	2,315	2,265	2,300	384,290	373,725	381,800
Hay: Alfalfa & Mixtures	Ton	13	13	15	2.35	2.60	2.50	31	34	38
All Other.....	Ton	312	312	335	1.60	1.60	1.50	499	499	503
All Kinds.....	Ton	325	325	350	1.63	1.64	1.55	530	533	541
Pasture Condition 2/...	%	-	-	-	3/ 81	84	67	-	-	-
Peaches, All.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	30,000	15,000
Apples, Commercial.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	295,000	280,000	265,000
Grapes, All.....	Ton	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.10	3.82	3.50
Pecans, Improved.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,500	1,000	1,400
Wild & Seedlings	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	700	1,200	1,600
All.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,200	2,200	3,000

1/ Production in 480-lb. NWB. 2/ Data shown for pastures represent condition, not yield. 80 and over = good to excellent, 65-79 = poor to fair, 50-64 = very poor. 3/ 1965-74 average condition on October 1.

UNITED STATES: Estimated Acreage, Yield and Production Of Crops, October 1, 1976, With Comparisons

CROPS	UNIT	HARVESTED ACRES			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
		1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976
		Thousands			*Units*			*Thousands*		
Corn for Grain.....	Bu.	65,357	66,905	70,955	71.4	86.2	82.7	4,663,631	5,766,991	5,865,243
Wheat, Winter.....	Bu.	47,043	51,544	49,172	29.6	32.0	31.4	1,390,144	1,651,209	1,542,330
Wheat, All.....	Bu.	65,613	69,656	70,420	27.4	30.6	30.2	1,796,187	2,133,803	2,126,649
Oats.....	Bu.	13,206	13,650	12,716	46.5	48.1	44.4	613,777	656,862	563,997
Barley.....	Bu.	8,168	8,711	8,346	37.2	44.0	42.6	304,112	382,980	355,210
Rye.....	Bu.	897	814	851	21.5	22.0	20.4	19,293	17,875	17,382
Tobacco: Flue-cured.....	Lb.	616.3	717.2	655.1	2,014	1,973	1,962	1,241,327	1,415,035	1,285,363
Burley.....	Lb.	260.8	282.2	279.1	2,350	2,265	2,255	612,649	639,056	629,335
All Types.....	Lb.	962.6	1,086.4	1,022.6	2,067	2,009	2,005	1,989,728	2,181,937	2,050,075
Cotton 1/.....	Lb.	12,567	8,796	11,052	441	453	445	11,540	8,302	10,251
Sorghum for Grain.....	Bu.	13,876	15,484	14,849	45.3	49.0	48.1	629,222	758,454	713,919
Irish Potatoes: Spring..	Cwt.	103.4	84.5	99.4	242	237	245	25,032	19,994	24,330
Summer..	Cwt.	133.3	115.7	120.4	191	181	189	25,421	20,898	22,787
All.....	Cwt.	1,390.8	1,261.8	1,376.7	246	253	254	342,060	319,834	349,943
Sweet Potatoes.....	Cwt.	121.7	118.5	120.8	114	114	114	13,921	13,567	13,796
Soybeans for Beans.....	Bu.	52,368	53,606	49,401	23.2	28.4	25.3	1,214,802	1,521,370	1,249,713
Peanuts for Nuts.....	Lb.	1,472	1,504	1,512	2,491	2,565	2,428	3,667,604	3,857,122	3,671,065
Hay: Alfalfa & Mixtures.	Ton	26,817	27,057	26,647	2.78	2.87	2.58	74,672	77,761	68,655
All Other.....	Ton	33,754	34,806	34,512	1.55	1.58	1.48	52,471	55,156	51,017
All Kinds.....	Ton	60,571	61,863	61,159	2.10	2.15	1.96	127,143	132,917	119,672
Pasture Condition 2/....	%	-	-	-	3/ 80	80	63	-	-	-
Peaches, All.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,892,700	2,818,000	2,945,000
Apples, Commercial.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,484,000	7,087,100	6,149,200
Grapes, All.....	Ton	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,192	4,300	3,566
Pecans, Improved.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	85,600	110,100	70,800
Wild & Seedlings	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	51,500	136,700	43,600
All.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	137,100	246,800	114,400

1/ U. S. includes American-Pima. Production in 480-lb. NWB. 2/ Data shown for pastures represent condition, not yield. 80 and over = good to excellent, 65-79 = poor to fair, 50-64 = very poor. 3/ 1965-74 average condition on October 1.

N. C. PEANUT EXPECTATIONS LOWER

Rains during the latter half of September did not offset the deterioration of the N. C. peanut crop during the first part of the month. Production is set at 382 million pounds, based on conditions around October 1. This is a 4 percent decline from a month earlier but 2 percent above the 1975 output. Yields are expected to average about 2,300 pounds per acre as opposed to 2,265 pounds last year.

U. S. peanut production is forecast at 3,671 million pounds (net weight), down 3 percent from the September 1 forecast and 5 percent below the record 1975 production of 3,857 million pounds. Yield per acre is expected to be 2,428 pounds, 137 less than a year ago.

The Virginia-North Carolina area expects to produce 665 million pounds in 1976, 1 percent more than last year. The area shows a slight increase in harvested acreage but yield is nearly the same as a year earlier.

The Southeastern crop is forecast at 2,289 million pounds, 8 percent less than a year ago, mainly because of reduced yields per acre. Acreage for harvest is up slightly. Yield per acre for this region is now forecast at 2,822 pounds per acre compared with 2,925 last month.

The peanut crop in Southwestern States may reach 717 million pounds, nearly the same as the 1975 crop. A small increase in acreage from last year is offset by a 13 pound decline in yield per acre. Yield for Southwestern States is now forecast at 1,661 pounds.

APPLE ESTIMATE LOWERED

Now that apple harvest has progressed past the half-way point, growers are better able to assess the effects of the spring freezes. Based on reports received from growers about October 1, production is set at 265 million pounds. This is a decrease of 10 million pounds from an earlier forecast and 15 million pounds less than the production utilized in 1975. The bright spot for those growers who have apples is that prices have been averaging substantially higher than last year.

As of October 1 the Nation's apple crop is forecast at 6.1 billion pounds, off 1 percent from the August 1 forecast and 13 percent below the utilized crop of 1975. Prospects declined since August 1 in every region of the Country.

The Eastern States now expect a total of 2.2 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the August 1 forecast and 20 percent less than a year earlier. Harvest of the short crop is active in all States. In New York's Hudson Valley, McIntosh picking is completed. New England harvest is 10 days ahead of normal; sizes are running in the medium range and color is good. In Maryland, moisture and temperatures favored good growth and coloring of apples. The Pennsylvania harvest began 10 days ahead of normal but was delayed in late September by rains which also caused some cracking. Virginia's crop has sized and colored well. Delicious harvest is nearly finished and pickers are now working in Staymen orchards.

FALL FRESH MARKET VEGETABLES

SNAP BEANS: As of October 1, North Carolina growers expect to harvest only 150 acres of snap beans for fresh market this fall. This compares with 300 acres harvested during the fall of 1975.

The 1976 fall quarter prospective area for harvest in major producing States is estimated at 15,320 acres, 9 percent less than the 16,900 acres harvested during the same quarter in 1975. Based on a projection of historic average yields, this acreage is expected to provide 597,000 cwt. which would be 10 percent less than the 1975 crop.

CABBAGE: Growers in North Carolina intend to harvest 2,700 acres of cabbage for fresh market this fall. This is 23 percent more than the 2,200 acres harvested in the fall of 1975. A total of 2,800 acres was planted this season compared with 2,600 acres a year earlier but abandonment was more than usual last year due to extreme weather in August and September.

Prospective area for harvest in major producing States during the 1976 fall quarter is forecast at 28,800 acres, 8 percent higher than the fall quarter of 1975. This acreage, using historic average yields, is expected to provide 7.5 million cwt., an increase of 5 percent from 1975.

COTTON FORECAST UNCHANGED

Cotton production in North Carolina is forecast at 60,000 bales, based on reports from growers around October 1. This is the same as the September outlook but 30 percent higher than the 1975 total. Yields are expected to average 424 pounds per acre--12 pounds more than last year.

All cotton production in the U. S. is forecast at 10.3 million bales as of October 1, 23 percent above the 1975 crop, but 1 percent below the September 1 forecast. Expected production consists of 10.2 million bales of Upland and 57,500 bales of American-Pima. Cottonseed production in 1976, based on a three year average lint-seed ratio, is forecast at 3.9 million tons, 29 percent more than in 1975.

Growers expect to harvest 11.1 million acres of all cotton for 1976, 26 percent above 1975 and unchanged from the September 1 estimate. Average lint yield per acre is forecast at 445 pounds, 8 pounds or 2 percent below 1975.

Production in the Southeastern States--Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina and North Carolina--is expected to total 780,000 bales, up 29 percent from 1975. Production prospects generally held steady or improved slightly during September.

The Bureau of the Census reports 572,884 bales ginned to October 1 compared with 373,240 bales ginned to the same date in 1975 and 827,287 bales in 1974.

COTTON REPORT AS OF OCTOBER 1, 1976

STATE	ACRES HARVESTED			LINT PER ACRE			PRODUCTION 480-Lb. Net Wt. Bales		
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976
	Thousand Acres			*Pounds*			*Thousand Bales*		
UPLAND									
North Carolina	145	53	68	440	412	424	133	46	60
South Carolina	292	103	165	450	454	465	274	98	160
Georgia	410	160	240	490	443	440	419	148	220
Tennessee	510	315	390	290	339	283	308	222	230
Alabama	585	370	450	429	405	363	522	312	340
Missouri	330	210	255	335	449	320	230	196	170
Mississippi	1,710	1,100	1,530	448	454	392	1,595	1,040	1,250
Arkansas	1,130	680	1,000	374	485	312	880	687	650
Louisiana	635	310	545	423	535	440	560	346	500
Oklahoma	547	295	335	272	277	201	310	170	140
Texas	4,400	3,900	4,500	269	293	320	2,462	2,382	3,000
New Mexico	140	85	75	509	382	467	148	68	73
Arizona	392	268	318	1,218	1,027	1,117	995	573	740
California	1,238	875	1,120	1,006	1,072	1,136	2,595	1,954	2,650
Other 1/	20.3	6.1	9.2	449	393	522	19	5	10
U.S. UPLAND 2/	12,484	8,730	11,000	440	453	445	11,450	8,247	10,193
U.S. AM. PIMA 3/	82.3	65.9	51.5	526	397	536	90	55	58
U.S. ALL	12,567	8,796	11,052	441	453	445	11,540	8,302	10,251

1/ Virginia, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky and Nevada. 2/ Sum of State totals above. 3/ Includes total American Pima in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California; not included in individual State data above.

SOYBEANS *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

cent from a month ago with Missouri's yield forecast decreasing 3 bushels per acre, followed by 2 bushel decreases in Arkansas, Kansas and Michigan. Indiana and Nebraska expect yields to be 1 bushel below the previous month's level. Illinois recorded an increase in prospects of 1 bushel per acre, and other major producing States indicated no change from a month earlier. Harvest advanced at a very rapid pace throughout the North Central States as the crop matured faster than normal due to the extremely dry growing season. Harvest is underway in other growing areas.

SEPTEMBER MILK PRODUCTION UP

An estimated 137 million pounds of milk were produced in North Carolina during September 1976, an increase of 5 percent from a year earlier and down 1 percent from August 1976. The number of milk cows on farms remained unchanged from August, totaling 154,000. Milk production per cow during September was 890 pounds, an increase of 5 percent from the comparable month last year and a decrease of 1 percent from August 1976.

September 1976 U. S. milk production of 9.65 billion pounds was 6.4 percent above a year earlier and 5.6 percent above September 1974. Average production per cow at 874 pounds was 59 pounds more than a year earlier and also 59 pounds above September 1974. Partially offsetting the increase in rate per cow was an 0.8 percent decline from a year earlier in the number of milk cows, estimated at 11,041,000 head during September. Milk cows declined 6,000 head from the previous month.

The September U. S. milk-feed price ratio, at 1.53, was 0.7 percent above last month and 3.4 percent above a year ago. Increased milk prices more than offset slightly higher feed costs.

MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION -- SEPTEMBER

STATE	MILK COWS ON FARMS 1/			MILK PER COW 2/			MILK PRODUCTION			
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1976 As %Of 1975
	Thousands			*Pounds*			*Million Pounds*			*Percent*
N. C.	152	154	154	850	850	890	129	131	137	105
Va.	159	158	165	900	920	920	143	145	152	105
Md.	137	141	144	910	905	985	125	128	142	111
Ga.	130	129	128	725	735	800	94	95	102	107
Fla.	199	197	200	700	760	760	139	150	152	101
U. S.	11,209	11,128	11,041	815	815	874	9,136	9,068	9,652	106

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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N. C. GRAIN STOCKS DOWN

Stocks of grains (excluding sorghum) in storage on October 1 in North Carolina were down 5 percent from a year earlier. Increases in wheat, oats and rye were more than offset by declines in corn and barley.

Old crop corn in storage totaled 2.8 million bushels, 22 percent less than October 1, 1975. Both on-farm and off-farm stocks were down significantly.

Wheat stocks at 4.9 million bushels were up 6 percent. Off-farm holdings were 27 percent larger than a year earlier, while on-farm stocks were 18 percent smaller. Oats at 2.6 million bushels were up 2 percent. Barley stocks at 1.2 million bushels were down 13 percent.

Sorghum grain stocks in off-farm storage positions are not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

U. S. FEED GRAIN AND WHEAT STOCKS ABOVE YEAR EARLIER

Stocks of the four feed grains (corn, oats, barley and sorghum) totaled 27 million metric tons, almost 2 percent more than the stocks on hand October 1, 1975. Increases from a year earlier by commodity were 11 percent for corn, 2 percent for barley and

(See Grain Stocks, Page 5)

NORTH CAROLINA LARGE AGRICULTURAL EXPORTER

North Carolina ranks tenth among all the states as an exporter of agricultural products. In fiscal year 1976 (year ending June 30), the Tarheel state exported $786.1 million worth of agricultural commodities. In rank

(See N. C. Exporter, Page 7)

OCTOBER PRICE INDEX DOWN

The ''All Farm Products'' index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets during October is 176 (1967 = 100), down 9 points from September and a decrease of 8 points from October 1975.

The October ''All Crops'' index, at 178, dropped 9 points from September. All components of the crops index are down, but oil bearing crops show the largest decline at 16 points.

The ''Livestock and Livestock Products'' index declined 9 points from September. Meat animals and poultry were off 24 points and 7 points, respectively, while the dairy index was up 3 points. (See Table, Page 2)

LARGE SUPPLIES OF HOGS AND CATTLE CONTINUE

The U. S. livestock outlook through mid-1977 will be dominated by prospects for the continued cyclical expansion in pork production and a high, but easing, output of beef.

Despite a strong domestic demand for meat, large supplies of pork will keep pressure on hog prices into 1977. Continued large slaughter of fed cattle and seasonal increases in slaughter of cattle off grass point to little, if any, strengthening in cattle prices at least until late this fall or winter. Then some price strength toward the mid-$40's is expected by midyear.

The September 1 Hogs and Pigs report, covering 14 major hog-producing States, indicated a 21-percent increase in the number of pigs farrowed this summer and was above June 1 intentions. However, the planned increase for

(See Hog & Cattle Supplies, Page 6)

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DOWN 9 POINTS, PRICES PAID INDEX DOWN 1 POINT

The Index of Prices Received by U. S. Farmers decreased 9 points (5 percent) to 178 percent of its January-December 1967 average during the month ended October 15, 1976. Contributing most to the decrease since mid-September were lower prices for hogs, corn, soybeans and wheat. Higher prices for oranges, grapefruit and lettuce were partially offsetting. The index was 17 points (9 percent) below a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates for October 15 was 194, down 1 point (½ percent) from a month earlier. Lower feed and fertilizer prices accounted for most of the decline. The index was 9 points (5 percent) above a year earlier.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARM PRICES INDEX NUMBERS

INDEX (1967 = 100)	Oct. 15 1973	Oct. 15 1974	Oct. 15 1975	Sep. 15 1976	Oct. 15 1976
NORTH CAROLINA					
Prices Received: All Farm Products....	164	3/ 186	3/ 184	185	176
All Crops.....	3/ 148	187	3/ 172	187	178
Tobacco.....	135	170	3/ 162	182	173
Cotton.....	254	3/ 213	207	*	*
Oil Bearing.....	185	246	186	221	205
Grains.....	173	245	203	180	172
Commercial Vegetables.....	3/ 156	3/ 159	3/ 187	3/ 167	163
Fruits.....	3/ 144	3/ 146	211	223	212
Livestock and Livestock Products.....	191	185	206	181	172
Meat Animals.....	208	169	247	188	164
Poultry.....	199	3/ 202	199	183	176
Dairy.....	144	3/ 161	3/ 166	167	170
UNITED STATES					
Prices Received, All Farm Products.....	184	3/ 186	3/ 195	3/ 187	178
Prices Paid, Commodities & Services 1/.	3/ 156	3/ 184	3/ 185	195	194
Parity Ratio 2/.....	3/ 123	105	3/ 105	96	92

*1/ Including Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid. 3/ Revised. * Discontinued.*

CROP PRICES DOWN, LIVESTOCK MIXED, FEED PRICES MOSTLY DOWN

Average prices received for crops by Tar Heel Farmers at local markets about mid-October were down from a month earlier. (See Table, Page 3.) Soybeans dropped 58 cents to $6.16 per bushel. Corn was $2.37 per bushel, a decrease of 10 cents. Oats was down 2 cents to $1.48 per bushel.

Prices received for livestock were mixed. Hogs, at $34.70 per hundredweight were off $7.10. Beef cattle remained unchanged at $25.70, while veal calves were up 50 cents per hundredweight. Milk cows rose $10.00 per head to $330.00.

North Carolina farmers paid generally less for feed during October. (See Table, Page 3.) Mixed dairy feed with 16 percent protein was down $1.00 per ton to $144.00, but dairy feed with 14 percent protein was unchanged at $142.00 per ton. Chick starter was off $6.00 per ton from September and broiler grower was down $8.00 per ton. Bran rose 20 cents to $7.80 per hundredweight and soybean meal (44 percent protein) dropped 50 cents to $12.00 per hundredweight.

COMMODITY PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		Oct. 15 1975	Sep. 15 1976	Oct. 15 1976 *	Oct. 15 1975	Sep. 15 1976	Oct. 15 1976*
		Dollars					
Tobacco	Lb.	1.058	1.195	1.134	1.050	1.190	1.129
Corn	Bu.	2.75	2.47	2.37	2.62	2.60	2.33
Wheat	Bu.	3.19	-	-	4.02	2.88	2.59
Oats	Bu.	1.46	1.50	1.48	1.41	1.49	1.46
Barley	Bu.	1.92	-	-	2.68	2.33	2.22
Rye	Bu.	2.37	-	-	2.52	-	-
Sorghum Grains	Cwt.	4.19	-	-	4.43	4.20	3.68
Soybeans	Bu.	5.22	6.74	6.16	4.92	6.65	5.90
Peanuts	Lb.	.200	-	.195	.197	.197	.201
Cotton	Lb.	.473	-	-	.497	.645	.625
Cottonseed	Ton	94.00	-	-	104.00	96.00	104.00
Wool	Lb.	-	-	-	.528	.688	.767
Hogs	Cwt.	60.70	41.80	34.70	58.30	39.70	32.90
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	22.80	25.70	25.70	33.40	32.40	31.80
Veal Calves	Cwt.	26.20	30.70	31.20	26.60	33.10	33.10
Milk Cows	Hd.	300.00	320.00	330.00	418.00	479.00	483.00
Com'l. Broilers	Lb.	.290	.230	.210	.285	.231	.209
Turkeys	Lb.	.400	.330	.350	.364	.305	.307
Eggs 1/	Doz.	.620	.709	.716	.529	.621	.608
Milk, Whlse	Cwt.	10.80	2/ 10.70	10.90	9.70	9.87	10.00
Potatoes	Cwt.	7.00	5.95	6.30	3.63	3.19	2.98
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt.	4.15	4.50	3.75	6.38	6.56	6.13
Apples, Com'l	Lb.	.076	.139	.128	.093	.132	.126
Hay, All	Ton	48.50	-	-	50.30	60.80	60.10
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	51.00	-	-	53.60	65.30	64.30
Other	Ton	48.50	-	-	43.30	49.40	50.40

*1/ Average of all eggs sold by farmers including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail by farmers. 2/ Revised. * Preliminary.*

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

TYPE OF FEED	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	Oct. 15 1975	Sep. 15 1976	Oct. 15 1976	Oct. 15 1975	Sep. 15 1976	Oct. 15 1976
	Per Ton - Dollars					
Mixed Dairy Feed						
14% Protein	141.00	142.00	142.00	134.00	138.00	135.00
16% Protein	143.00	145.00	144.00	136.00	147.00	145.00
32% Protein	172.00	184.00	182.00	178.00	208.00	202.00
Poultry Feeds						
Chick Starter	167.00	176.00	170.00	167.00	183.00	178.00
Broiler Grower	169.00	179.00	171.00	164.00	179.00	170.00
Laying Feed 1/	157.00	157.00	156.00	148.00	159.00	154.00
Turkey Grower 1/	165.00	179.00	174.00	170.00	181.00	177.00
	Per 100 Lbs. - Dollars					
Grain By-Products						
Bran	7.50	7.60	7.80	7.20	7.65	7.72
Middlings	7.50	7.40	7.50	7.12	7.55	7.61
Corn Meal	7.30	6.80	6.60	7.09	7.09	6.82
High Protein Feeds						
Cottonseed Meal 41%	9.80	12.00	12.00	9.44	11.60	11.50
Soybean Meal 44%	9.60	12.50	12.00	9.23	12.20	11.60

1/ Complete ration feeds which are fed without further mixing or supplementations.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION UP

North Carolina's September commercial hatch, at 28.6 million chicks, increased 17 percent from September 1975. The broiler-type hatch increased 15 percent to 27.7 million chicks while the egg-type hatch, at 900,000, was nearly double.

For the nation the September hatch was 9 percent more than a year earlier for broiler-type and 10 percent more for egg-type.

The number of broiler-type eggs in incubators on October 1, 1976, at 224.4 million, was 7 percent greater than a year earlier and egg-type, at 34.2 million, was 9 percent greater. In the South Atlantic states the number of eggs in incubators for broiler-type was up 10 percent from October 1, 1975 and up 34 percent for egg-type.

CHICKS HATCHED -- SEPTEMBER

STATE	BROILER-TYPE		EGG-TYPE		ALL TYPES	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands					
North Carolina	24,101	27,749	455	900	24,556	28,649
South Carolina	1,949	2,271	839	644	2,788	2,915
Georgia	35,007	38,525	2,725	3,297	37,732	41,822
Florida	6,312	6,469	2,824	3,550	9,136	10,019
Delaware	11,572	12,965	1/	1/	11,572	12,965
Maryland	15,479	17,188	1/	1/	15,479	17,188
Virginia	7,008	7,731	540	570	7,548	8,301
UNITED STATES	241,854	263,398	33,851	37,356	275,705	300,754

1/ Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations.

U. S. POULT HATCH DOWN 2 PERCENT

The U. S. commercial hatch of turkey poults during September 1976 at 4.3 million was 2 percent below a year ago. The hatch of heavy breeds was up 2 percent from the same month last year to 3.7 million poults and light breed poults hatched were down 23 percent to 576 thousand.

The number of turkey eggs in incubators on October 1, 1976, at 6.4 million, was 6 percent above last year. Eggs set for heavy breed turkeys were up 11 percent from last year but light breeds were down 8 percent.

POULTS HATCHED -- SEPTEMBER

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION (U. S.)	HEAVY BREEDS 1/		LIGHT BREEDS 2/		ALL BREEDS	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands					
North Atlantic	25	0	5	0	30	0
East North Central	603	484	128	33	731	517
West North Central	655	564	424	230	1,079	794
South Atlantic	1,379	1,630	150	261	1,529	1,891
South Central	412	375	0	0	412	375
West	516	623	40	52	556	675
UNITED STATES	3,590	3,676	747	576	4,337	4,252

1/ Birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is 12 pounds or over.
2/ Birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is less than 12 pounds.

SEPTEMBER EGG PRODUCTION UNCHANGED

Estimated egg production in North Carolina during September totals 224 million -- about the same as September 1975. The average number of layers on hand during the month, at 11.4 million, decreased 2 percent. The decrease in layers was offset by an increase in the rate of lay which totaled 1,956 eggs per 100 layers -- the highest of record for September.

The nation's laying flock produced 5,229 million eggs during September, slightly less than in September 1975. Layers on hand during September, at 274 million, were also down slightly from a year earlier. The average rate of lay during the month was 1,911, about the same as September 1975.

NUMBER OF LAYERS AND EGG PRODUCTION -- SEPTEMBER

STATE	LAYERS ON HAND		EGGS PER 100 LAYERS		TOTAL EGGS PRODUCED	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands		*Number*		*Millions*	
North Carolina	11,725	11,450	1,908	1,956	224	224
Virginia	3,298	3,360	1,926	1,968	64	66
South Carolina	5,975	4,830	1,935	2,055	116	99
Georgia	22,700	24,045	1,953	1,950	443	469
Florida	11,925	12,250	1,920	1,959	229	240
UNITED STATES	274,386	273,562	1,914	1,911	5,252	5,229

GRAIN STOCKS, *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

51 percent for sorghum. Oats stocks declined 13 percent from a year earlier.

Stocks of all wheat were up 14 percent from a year earlier, while durum stocks jumped 33 percent. Rye stocks were 2 percent below October 1, 1975, and flaxseed stocks were down 34 percent. Old crop corn stored in all positions on October 1 totaled 399 million bushels, 11 percent more than a year earlier. Oats in storage October 1, 1976 totaled nearly 543 million bushels, 13 percent less than a year earlier and the lowest for the date since records were started in 1943.

STOCKS OF GRAIN -- OCTOBER 1

CROP	OFF-FARM TOTAL 1/		ON-FARM TOTAL		TOTAL ALL POSITIONS	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousand Bushels					
NORTH CAROLINA						
Corn (Old Crop)	740	245	2,905	2,580	3,645	2,825
Wheat	2,502	3,187	2,139	1,747	4,641	4,934
Oats	749	988	1,785	1,593	2,534	2,581
Barley	212	234	1,215	1,014	1,427	1,248
Rye	18	45	140	162	158	207
Sorghum (Old Crop)	10	*	83	20	93	*
UNITED STATES						
Corn (Old Crop)	168,193	169,419	191,255	229,883	359,448	399,302
Wheat	1,128,997	1,330,928	762,067	831,758	1,891,064	2,162,686
Oats	130,775	112,295	496,057	430,458	626,832	542,753
Barley	126,963	152,599	215,308	198,082	342,271	350,681
Rye	5,654	6,073	10,020	9,357	15,674	15,430
Sorghum (Old Crop)	27,188	38,979	7,909	13,957	35,097	52,936

1/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.
** Unpublished to avoid disclosing individual operations.*

HOG AND CATTLE SUPPLIES (Cont'd. From Page 1)

September-November farrowings represents some backing off from the expansion plans reported early this summer. If actual farrowings are near the levels indicated, hog slaughter during the first half of 1977 could be 17 to 19 percent above a year earlier. Slaughter during the winter quarter could approach a rate 20 percent above a year earlier. Although a seasonally lower slaughter level is expected next spring, both the winter and spring totals will likely be larger than during October-December of this year. Indications of potential farrowings for December-February point to a 9 percent increase.

While total red meat supplies in the first half of 1977 will be down from the last half of this year, they should still be up moderately from a year earlier. Broiler output also is expected to continue above 1976. With big gains expected for pork and other meats, continued weakness in hog prices is likely during the first half of next year.

Prospects for some improvement in fed cattle prices by fall faded as slaughter through the summer months rose to an alltime high. With the movement of cattle off grass at a seasonal peak, little, if any, price improvement is expected until late fall or winter.

CATTLE ON FEED - Number On Feed, Placements, Marketings And Other Disappearence, July 1 - October 1, 1974, 1975, And 1976

ITEM	23 STATES			
	1974	1975	1976	1976 As A % Of 1975
	Thousand Head			*Percent*
CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED JULY 1.....	10,047	8,542	10,036	117
Cattle and Calves placed on feed July 1 - September 30 1/.....	4,952	6,025	5,673	94
Fed Cattle Marketed July 1 - September 30 1/.....	5,522	5,014	6,170	123
Other Disappearance July 1 - September 30 2/.....	325	252	275	109
CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED OCTOBER 1..	9,152	9,001	9,264	100
Kinds on Feed October 1				
Steers and Steer Calves.....	6,703	6,315	5,900	93
Heifers and Heifer Calves.....	2,394	2,935	3,324	113
Cows and Other.....	55	51	40	78
NUMBER ON FEED BY WEIGHT GROUPS OCT. 1				
Steers and Steer Calves				
Less than 500 pounds.....	234	314	179	57
500-699 pounds.....	1,069	1,467	1,002	68
700-899 pounds.....	2,270	2,433	2,122	87
900-1,099 pounds.....	2,505	1,814	2,106	116
1,100 pounds and over.....	625	287	491	171
Heifers and Heifer Calves				
Less than 500 pounds.....	172	236	315	133
500-699 pounds.....	674	1,059	1,044	99
700-899 pounds.....	1,078	1,230	1,366	111
900 pounds and over.....	470	410	599	146
MARKETINGS OCTOBER-DECEMBER.....	3/ 5,538	3/ 4,940	4/ 5,490	111

1/ Includes cattle placed on feed after beginning of quarter and marketed before end of quarter. 2/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. 3/ Total marketings including those placed on feed after Oct. 1 and marketed before December 31. 4/ Expected total marketings including an allowance for those placed on feed after Oct. 1 and marketed before December 31.

SEPTEMBER SLAUGHTER HIGHER

Commercial slaughter of livestock in North Carolina during September 1976 totaled 54,458,000 pounds live weight, an increase of 10 percent from September a year earlier. The number of cattle slaughtered was 21,700 head, up 7 percent from September 1975, while the number of calves killed was unchanged at 800 head. There were no reports of sheep and lambs slaughtered. Hogs killed, at 158,000 head, were up 10 percent.

Commercial production of red meat in the United States totaled nearly 3.5 billion pounds in September, 12 percent more than a year ago and 13 percent above September 1974. Total red meat output for January-September 1976 was up 7 percent from 1975. Changes by individual components are beef, up 11 percent; veal, up 2 percent; lamb and mutton, down 11 percent. Commercial meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER 1/

SPECIES	SEPTEMBER				JANUARY THROUGH SEPTEMBER			
	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	NORTH CAROLINA							
	Thous. Head		*Thous. Lbs.*		*Thous. Head*		*Thous. Lbs.*	
Cattle	20.2	21.7	17,029	19,378	150.6	161.4	131,854	146,244
Calves	.8	.8	186	162	5.3	6.5	1,250	1,574
Sheep & Lambs	.1	-	10	-	.5	.5	44	49
Hogs	144.0	158.0	32,400	34,918	1,250.0	1,264.0	278,707	283,468
TOTAL	165.1	180.5	49,625	54,458	1,406.4	1,432.4	411,855	431,335
	UNITED STATES							
	Million Head		*Million Lbs.*		*Million Head*		*Million Lbs.*	
Cattle	3.7	3.7	3,576	3,818	29.8	32.0	29,785	32,537
Calves	.5	.5	146	130	3.7	3.9	1,033	1,037
Sheep & Lambs	.8	.6	82	70	6.0	5.1	616	545
Hogs	5.5	6.6	1,301	1,562	51.9	52.2	12,364	12,395
TOTAL	10.5	11.4	5,105	5,580	91.4	93.2	43,798	46,514

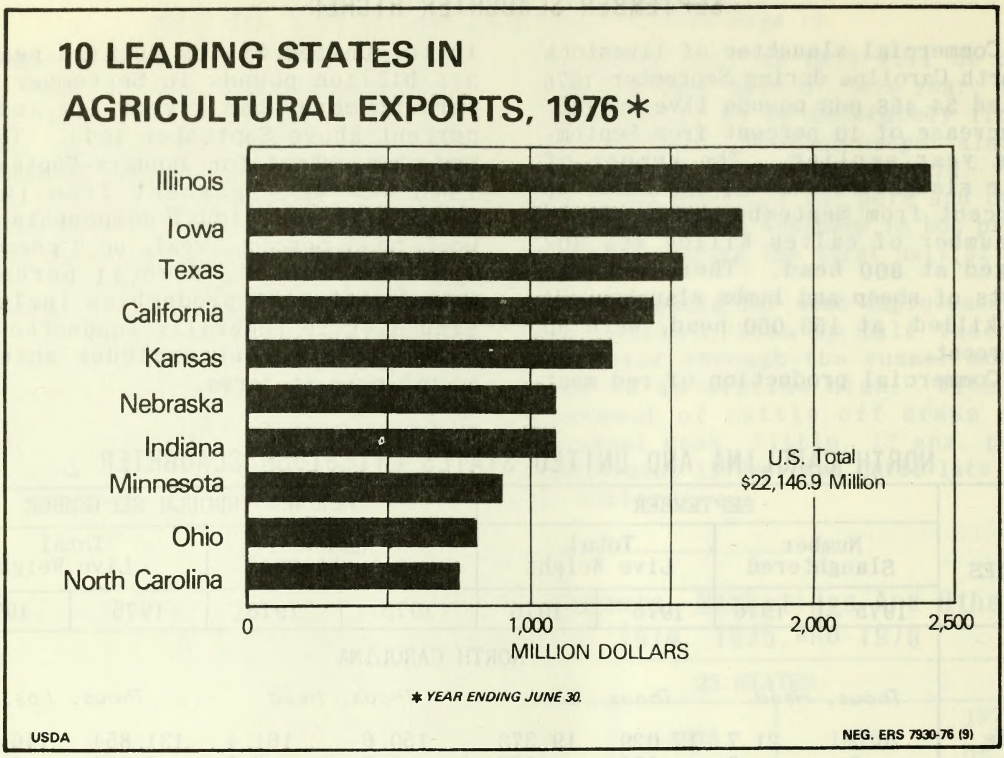
1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

NORTH CAROLINA EXPORTER *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

position with other states, North Carolina was the leading exporter of tobacco at a value of $473.9 million. It was fourth, behind Arkansas, Georgia, and California, in the shipment of poultry products valued at $16.8 million. It holds eighth position as an exporter of nuts and preparations.

Within North Carolina the main exports during 1976, besides tobacco and poultry, were total feed grains (including barley, corn, oats, and sorghum) valued at $96 million, soybeans at $65.9 million, and wheat and flour at $22.7 million.

(See Chart, Page 8)



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NORTH CAROLINA Farm Report

Federal - State
Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

No. 717 November 17, 1976

OCTOBER RAINS SLOW HARVEST

Except for the second week, rains slowed field activities in October. Temperatures averaged near or below normal while precipitation was above normal. Generally dry conditions pervailed during the first week of November giving farmers the highest average number of days suitable for field work since September. As of November 6, soil moisture averaged mostly adequate in the state. The central and northern Piedmont had the highest amount of soil moisture while the northern two-thirds of the Coastal Plains was the driest area of the state.

Field activity during October and early November largely consisted of harvesting and fall land preparation and planting. Corn harvest ran well ahead of normal all during October. As of November 6, 89 percent had been picked compared to 88 percent last year and an average of 81 percent. Corn being cut for silage was essentially

(See General, Page 2)

N. C. CORN OUTLOOK STABLE

The 1976 North Carolina corn crop is expected to total 155 million bushels based on reports from growers around November 1. This is the same as the October forecast but 50 percent larger than the 1975 crop. The average yield is set at 80 bushels per acre, 13 bushels more than the weather reduced 1975 rate. Harvested acres, at 1.9 million, are 26 percent above last year.

Production of corn for grain in the U. S. is forecast at a record 6.1 billion bushels. This is 3 percent (198 million bushels) above the October 1 forecast and 5 percent above last year, the previous record.

(See Corn, Page 2)

FLUE-CURED PROSPECTS MIXED

The total North Carolina flue-cured tobacco crop is now expected to be 877 million pounds based on marketing data and reports from growers around November 1. This is 1 percent higher than the October 1 forecast but harvested acreage, at 435,000, is up 2 percent for a slightly lower average yield of 2,016 pounds per acre. The largest change is in Type 11 where both yield and harvested acreage are higher than indicated a month earlier.

U. S. flue-cured tobacco production is forecast at 1.3 billion pounds, 15 million pounds above that indicated on October 1 but 115 million pounds below the 1975 production. The lower production this year is due to an 8 percent decrease in harvested acres

(See Tobacco, Page 2)

SOYBEANS HOLD STEADY

Generally favorable conditions in the state during October kept soybean prospects stable. Based on reports from growers around November 1, total production is set at 24.2 million bushels. This is the same as the outlook a month earlier but 26 percent below the 1975 output. Yields are expected to average 21 bushels per acre compared to 23 bushels last year and 21.5 bushels in 1974.

U. S. soybean production forecast at 1.3 billion bushels is up only slightly from a month ago but down 18 percent from the 1975 crop. The November 1 condition of the crop indicates a yield of 25.3 bushels per acre compared with 28.4 bushels in 1975 and and 23.2 bushels two years ago.

Harvest of the 1976 crop was 73 percent complete through October 31,

(See Soybeans, Page 3)

CORN *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

Average yield is forecast at 85.5 bushels per acre, up 2.8 bushels from last month but down 0.7 bushel from 1975. As farmers approach completion of harvest, yields are averaging higher than earlier expected. Increases in yields from last month were recorded in all the major Corn Belt States. States outside the Corn Belt showing increases included Colorado, Delaware, Kentucky and Maryland. Acreage for grain at 71.0 million acres is unchanged from October 1 and is 6 percent above 1975.

TOBACCO *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

and a slightly lower yield. The forecast of 1,961 pounds per harvested acre is 12 pounds below last year. Sales of flue-cured tobacco are about complete in North Carolina and Virginia and were completed earlier in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

BURLEY FORECAST THE SAME

The Tar Heel burley outlook is the same as on October 1--18.9 million pounds. If realized, this would be 16 percent below the 1975 production. Yields are expected to average 2,100 pounds per acre, 340 pounds less than last year's rate.

U. S. burley output is forecast at 634 million pounds, 5 million pounds more than the October 1 forecast, but 1 percent below the 1975 production. The increase in production from a month earlier was due to a 25 pound yield increase in Kentucky.

GENERAL *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

finished by mid-October.

Average soybean conditions remained mostly fair during October as the crop neared maturity. A limited amount of harvesting took place in October and by November 6, 22 percent had been combined. This was about the same progress as a year earlier. Unusually cold temperatures accelerated leaf shedding.

Peanut harvest was nearing completion by the end of the month. As of October 30, 89 percent had been dug compared to 98 percent in 1975. Threshing was 78 percent complete whereas 92 percent had been finished in 1975. The average threshing progress for that time of year is 81 percent. The freezing temperatures caught a few nuts on the ground and grades were lowered to some extent.

Cotton picking got off to a slow start and ran well behind normal all through October. Activity accelerated somewhat in early November and, as of the 6th, 44 percent had been picked. This compares with 50 percent in 1975 and an average of 56 percent.

October rains slowed fall land preparation and seeding. By November 6, 42 percent of the wheat was planted compared to 62 percent last year and 59 percent on the average. Seeding of oats, barley and rye was in the 50-60 percent range. Although it was early in the growing season and difficult to rate the young plants, conditions averaged fair to good on all four of the small grains with rye seemingly a little better than the others.

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO, BY TYPE, NOVEMBER 1, 1976

STATE	TYPE	HARVESTED ACRES			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
		1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976
		Thousands			*Pounds*			*Thousand Pounds*		
Virginia	11	62.0	68.0	69.0	1,805	1,650	1,670	111,910	112,200	115,230
N. C.	11	152.0	179.0	180.0	1,790	1,710	1,825	272,080	306,090	328,500
N. C.	12	188.0	229.0	204.0	2,110	2,155	2,150	396,680	493,495	438,600
N. C.	13	50.0	62.0	51.0	2,030	2,165	2,150	101,500	134,230	109,650
N. C. Total	11-13	390.0	470.0	435.0	1,975	1,987	2,016	770,260	933,815	876,750
S. C.	13	80.0	90.0	77.0	2,150	2,100	2,025	172,000	189,000	155,925
Georgia	14	72.0	75.0	68.0	2,235	2,010	1,800	160,920	150,750	122,400
Florida	14	11.7	13.5	13.5	2,145	2,080	2,150	25,097	28,080	29,025
Alabama	14	.6	.7	.6	1,810	1,700	1,700	1,140	1,190	1,088
U. S. TOTAL	11-14	616.3	717.2	663.1	2,014	1,973	1,961	1,241,327	1,415,035	1,300,418

LARGER PEANUT CROP INDICATED

With harvest near completion, growers reporting around November 1 had a better feeling for the size of their crops than a month earlier. Farmers also tended to leave their peanuts in the ground longer than normal to take advantage of the late season rainfall. As a result, production is expected to total 407 million pounds, up 7 percent from the October 1 forecast and 9 percent above the 1975 output. Yields are now expected to average 2,450 pounds per acre compared to 2,265 pounds last year.

Peanut production in the Nation is forecast at 3.7 billion pounds (net weight), up slightly from the October 1 forecast but 4 percent below the record 1975 production of 3.9 billion pounds. Yield per acre is expected to average 2,439 pounds, 126 pounds less than a year ago. Acreage to be harvested for peanuts is estimated at 1.5 million acres, up slightly from last year.

The Virginia-North Carolina area is forecast to produce 705 million pounds of peanuts in 1976, 7 percent more than last year. The area shows a slight increase in harvested acreage and a yield increase of 156 pounds per acre. The Virginia crop responded well to several general rains since mid-September. However, several frosts and wet weather hampered digging and damage to the crop increased as harvest neared completion.

The Southeast crop is forecast at 2.3 billion pounds, 8 percent less than a year ago because of lower yields. Acreage for harvest is up slightly. Average yield for this region is now forecast at 2,809 pounds per acre compared with 2,822 last month. Harvesting was near completion in Alabama and Florida while the remainder of the Southeast experienced delays and light losses because of wet conditions during October. Georgia's prospects declined 52 million pounds during the month.

The peanut crop in Southwestern States is expected to total 704 million pounds, 2 percent less than the 1975 crop. A small increase in acreage from last year is offset by a 43 pound decline in yield. Yield for the Southwest is forecast at 1,631 pounds per acre.

U. S. WINTER WHEAT SEEDING NEAR NORMAL

Seeding of the 1977 U. S. winter wheat crop made good progress during October. At the beginning of October only half the crop was in the ground, which compares with 57 percent last year and 60 percent average. Clear weather in most of the major producing States helped growers move to 93 percent complete by November 1, compared with 94 percent last year and 95 percent average. Light rains during early October encouraged wheat producers to accelerate the rate of seeding, but by mid-month growers in some States delayed planting to avoid disease and insect problems.

The 1977 Kansas wheat crop was 95 percent seeded by November 1, the same as last year and average. Precipitation during October enabled the newly seeded wheat to make good top growth and root development going into the winter. Even though the moisture received in October has enabled the wheat crop to get off to a good start, more moisture is needed to replenish the low topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies.

By November 1, winter wheat seeding was about 84 percent complete in Texas, lagging last year's 91 percent and the average of 94 percent. Parts of Texas received saturating rains which prevented growers from maintaining their planting schedule. Oklahoma growers finished seeding the 1977 winter wheat crop by the end of October, well ahead of last year but near the average rate. Dry weather earlier in the planting season discouraged Oklahoma growers from planting early. Rains near mid-October improved planting and germinating conditions and producers speeded the seeding pace.

SOYBEANS *(Cont'd. From Page 1)*

compared with 69 percent last year and the 65 percent average. Soybeans in the eastern North Central States were 95 percent combined, slightly behind last year's progress but ahead of average. Yield prospects in this area remained unchanged from a month ago except for a 1 bushel increase in Michigan.

NORTH CAROLINA: Estimated Acreage, Yield and Production Of Crops, NOVEMBER 1, 1976 With Comparisons

CROPS	UNIT	HARVESTED ACRES			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
		1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976
		Thousands			*Units*			*Thousands*		
Corn for Grain.....	Bu.	1,570	1,540	1,940	74.0	67.0	80.0	116,180	103,180	155,200
Wheat, Winter.....	Bu.	275	300	260	36.0	31.0	28.0	9,900	9,300	7,280
Oats.....	Bu.	85	85	95	53.0	50.0	43.0	4,505	4,250	4,085
Barley.....	Bu.	60	60	65	46.0	45.0	40.0	2,760	2,700	2,600
Rye.....	Bu.	20	20	20	20.0	18.0	18.0	400	360	360
Tobacco: Flue-Cured....	Lb.	390.0	470.0	435.0	1,975	1,987	2,016	770,260	933,815	876,750
Burley.....	Lb.	8.0	9.5	9.0	2,370	2,440	2,100	18,960	23,180	18,900
All Types.....	Lb.	398.0	479.5	444.0	1,983	1,996	2,017	789,220	956,995	895,650
Cotton 1/.....	Lb.	145	53	68	440	412	424	133	46	60
Sorghum for Grain.....	Bu.	80	80	90	52.0	51.0	50.0	4,160	4,080	4,500
Irish Potatoes: Spring.	Cwt.	13.0	12.0	13.0	165	160	145	2,145	1,920	1,885
Summer.	Cwt.	4.5	4.0	4.4	135	120	135	608	480	594
All....	Cwt.	17.5	16.0	17.4	157	150	142	2,753	2,400	2,479
Sweet Potatoes.....	Cwt.	29.0	31.0	34.0	135	145	140	3,915	4,495	4,760
Soybeans for Beans.....	Bu.	1,420	1,420	1,150	21.5	23.0	21.0	30,530	32,660	24,150
Peanuts for Nuts.....	Lb.	166	165	166	2,315	2,265	2,450	384,290	373,725	406,700
Hay: Alfalfa & Mixtures	Ton	13	13	15	2.35	2.60	2.50	31	34	38
All Other.....	Ton	312	312	335	1.60	1.60	1.50	499	499	503
All Kinds.....	Ton	325	325	350	1.63	1.64	1.55	530	533	541
Pasture Condition 2/...	%	-	-	-	3/ 81	84	76	-	-	-
Peaches, All.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	30,000	15,000
Apples, Commercial.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	295,000	280,000	265,000
Grapes, All.....	Ton	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.10	3.82	3.50
Pecans, Improved.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,500	1,000	1,400
Wild & Seedlings	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	700	1,200	1,600
All.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,200	2,200	3,000

1/ Production in 480-lb. NWB. 2/ Data shown for pastures represent condition, not yield. 80 and over = good to excellent, 65-79 = poor to fair, 50-64 = very poor. 3/ 1965-74 average condition on November 1.

UNITED STATES: Estimated Acreage, Yield and Production Of Crops, NOVEMBER 1, 1976, With Comparisons

CROPS	UNIT	HARVESTED ACRES			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
		1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976	1974	1975	Indicated 1976
		Thousands			*Units*			*Thousands*		
Corn for Grain.....	Bu.	65,357	66,905	70,955	71.4	86.2	85.5	4,663,631	5,766,991	6,063,459
Wheat, Winter.....	Bu.	47,043	51,544	49,172	29.6	32.0	31.4	1,390,144	1,651,209	1,542,330
Wheat, All.....	Bu.	65,613	69,656	70,420	27.4	30.6	30.2	1,796,187	2,133,803	2,126,649
Oats.....	Bu.	13,206	13,650	12,716	46.5	48.1	44.4	613,777	656,862	563,997
Barley.....	Bu.	8,168	8,711	8,346	37.2	44.0	42.6	304,112	382,980	355,210
Rye.....	Bu.	897	814	851	21.5	22.0	20.4	19,293	17,875	17,382
Tobacco: Flue-cured.....	Lb.	616.3	717.2	663.1	2,014	1,973	1,961	1,241,327	1,415,035	1,300,418
Burley.....	Lb.	260.8	282.2	279.1	2,350	2,265	2,272	612,649	639,056	634,035
All Types.....	Lb.	962.6	1,086.4	1,031.7	2,067	2,009	2,007	1,989,728	2,181,937	2,070,950
Cotton 1/.....	Lb.	12,567	8,796	10,914	441	453	435	11,540	8,302	9,891
Sorghum for Grain.....	Bu.	13,876	15,484	14,849	45.3	49.0	49.2	629,222	758,454	730,669
Irish Potatoes: Spring..	Cwt.	103.4	84.5	99.4	242	237	245	25,032	19,994	24,330
Summer..	Cwt.	133.3	115.7	120.4	191	181	189	25,421	20,898	22,787
All.....	Cwt.	1,390.8	1,261.8	1,140.0	246	253	262	342,060	319,834	299,174
Sweet Potatoes.....	Cwt.	121.7	118.5	120.8	114	114	114	13,921	13,567	13,796
Soybeans for Beans.....	Bu.	52,368	53,606	49,401	23.2	28.4	25.3	1,214,802	1,521,370	1,252,148
Peanuts for Nuts.....	Lb.	1,472	1,504	1,512	2,491	2,565	2,439	3,667,604	3,857,122	3,688,265
Hay: Alfalfa & Mixtures.	Ton	26,817	27,057	26,647	2.78	2.87	2.58	74,672	77,761	68,655
All Other.....	Ton	33,754	34,806	34,512	1.55	1.58	1.48	52,471	55,156	51,017
All Kinds.....	Ton	60,571	61,863	61,159	2.10	2.15	1.96	127,143	132,917	119,672
Pasture Condition 2/....	%	-	-	-	3/ 70	77	66	-	-	-
Peaches, All.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,892,700	2,818,000	2,945,000
Apples, Commercial.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,484,000	7,087,100	6,149,200
Grapes, All.....	Ton	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,192	4,300	3,566
Pecans, Improved.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	85,600	110,100	70,800
Wild & Seedlings	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	51,500	136,700	43,600
All.....	Lb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	137,100	246,800	114,400

1/ U. S. includes American-Pima. Production in 480-lb. NWB. 2/ Data shown for pastures represent condition, not yield. 80 and over = good to excellent, 65-79 = poor to fair, 50-64 = very poor. 3/ 1965-74 average condition on November 1.

COTTON FORECAST UNCHANGED

North Carolina cotton production is expected to total 60,000 bales, based on reports from growers and ginners around November 1. This is the same as the October 1 forecast but 30 percent higher than the unusually small 1975 output. Average yield is set at 424 pounds per acre which is 12 pounds more than last year.

All U. S. cotton production is forecast at 9.9 million bales as of November 1, 19 percent above the 1975 crop, but 4 percent below the October 1 forecast. Expected production consists of 9.8 million bales of Upland and 51,000 bales of American-Pima. Cottonseed production in 1976, based on a three year average lint-seed ratio, is forecast at 3.8 million tons, 25 percent more than in 1975.

Growers expect to harvest 10.9 million acres of all cotton for 1976, 24 percent above 1975 but 1 percent less than estimated on October 1. Average lint yield per acre is forecast at 435 pounds, 18 pounds or 4 percent below 1975.

N. C. BLUEBERRY PRODUCTION DOWN SHARPLY

An unusual late season freeze almost wiped out the 1976 blueberry crop in North Carolina. Production is estimated at 136,000 flats (12 pints or 11 pounds per flat) which is only one-fifth of the 683,000 flats produced in 1975. Acreage harvested in 1976 is estimated at 3,400 acres compared with 3,900 last year. The yield per harvested acre this season averaged 40 flats compared with 175 flats in 1975.

Growers received an average of $7.40 per flat for all sales this season. This compares with $5.05 per flat in 1975. The total value of production at $1,004,000 compares with $3,449,000 last year. About 86 percent of the production was sold for fresh market. Fresh market berries averaged $7.90 per flat compared with $5.65 in 1975. Processing berries brought an average of $4.18 per flat equivalent compared with $2.70 last year.

COTTON REPORT AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 1976,

STATE	ACRES HARVESTED			LINT PER ACRE			PRODUCTION 480-Lb. Net Wt. Bales		
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976
	Thousand Acres			*Pounds*			*Thousand Bales*		
UPLAND									
North Carolina	145	53	68	440	412	424	133	46	60
South Carolina	292	103	165	450	454	451	274	98	155
Georgia	410	160	240	490	443	400	419	148	200
Tennessee	510	315	390	290	339	246	308	222	200
Alabama	585	370	440	429	405	371	522	312	340
Missouri	330	210	255	335	449	292	230	196	155
Mississippi	1,710	1,100	1,470	448	454	343	1,595	1,040	1,050
Arkansas	1,130	680	950	374	485	344	880	687	680
Louisiana	635	310	545	423	535	458	560	346	520
Oklahoma	547	295	335	272	277	201	310	170	140
Texas	4,400	3,900	4,500	269	293	304	2,462	2,382	2,850
New Mexico	140	85	65	509	382	480	148	68	65
Arizona	392	268	318	1,218	1,027	1,155	995	573	765
California	1,238	875	1,120	1,006	1,072	1,136	2,595	1,954	2,650
Other 1/	20.3	6.1	9.2	449	393	522	19	5	10
U.S. UPLAND 2/	12,484	8,730	10,870	440	453	435	11,450	8,247	9,840
U.S. AM. PIMA 3/	82.3	65.9	44.0	526	397	556	90	55	51
U.S. ALL	12,567	8,796	10,914	441	453	435	11,540	8,302	9,891

1/ Virginia, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky and Nevada. 2/ Sum of State totals above 3/ Includes total American Pima in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California; not included in individual State data above.

SUMMER VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET

SNAP BEANS: N. C. growers harvested 3,800 acres of snap beans for fresh market in the summer of 1976. This is the same acreage as in each of the last two years. Average yield per acre is estimated at 36 cwt. compared to 43 cwt. last year. Production, at 137,000 cwt., is down 26,000 cwt. The value of the 1976 summer crop is set at $3.3 million, up 1 percent from the previous summer.

U. S. production of summer quarter snap beans is estimated at 1.0 million cwt., 4 percent less than last year. The 1976 summer crop harvested area is now placed at 28,600 acres, 6 percent more than the 1975 crop. The estimated yield for the summer quarter of 36 cwt. per acre is 3 cwt. per acre less than last year.

CABBAGE: The N. C. summer cabbage crop was harvested from 3,700 acres, the same as in 1975. Yield, at 185 cwt. per acre, is also the same as last year. Production is estimated at 685,000 cwt. The value of the summer cabbage crop is estimated at $2.9 million, up 14 percent from 1975.

The summer quarter U. S. production of cabbage is placed at 6.1 million cwt., 8 percent below last year. Harvested acreage this quarter at 23,700 is 6 percent below last year. Yield this summer at 256 cwt. per acre compares with 264 cwt. in 1975 for major States.

SWEET CORN: N. C. harvested sweet corn acreage is up 2 percent at 5,400 acres this year. Yield is set at 65 cwt. per acre, up 11 cwt. from 1975. Production at 351,000 cwt., is up 23 percent. The value of the 1976 sweet corn crop is estimated to total $2.5 million compared to $2.4 million last year.

Summer quarter U. S. production of sweet corn is estimated at 6.5 million cwt. 6 percent below the 1975 crop of 6.9 million cwt. The harvested area at 96,500 acres is 1 percent more than 1975. Yield per acre this quarter at 67 cwt. compares with 72 cwt. for 1975.

CUCUMBERS: The N. C. summer cucumber crop was harvested from an estimated 3,900 acres compared to 3,700 in 1975. Yields were up 10 cwt. at 68 cwt. per acre. Production is set at 265,000 cwt. whereas the 1975 total was 215,000 cwt. The summer cucumber crop is valued at $2.3 million, 20 percent higher than last year.

The 1976 summer quarter cucumber production in the U. S. is placed at 1.4 million cwt., nearly the same as last year. Harvested acreage at 12,400 is 2 percent more than 1975. Yield per acre is placed at 111 cwt., 2 cwt. less than 1975 for major States.

GREEN PEPPERS: The N. C. green pepper crop was harvested from 7,900 acres, 100 acres less than last year. Yields were 1 cwt. higher at 36 cwt. per acre. Production is set at 284,000 cwt., up 4,000 cwt. The value of the 1976 crop is down 15 percent at $3.9 million.

The summer quarter U. S. production of peppers is estimated at 1.8 million cwt., 22 percent above last year. (Without Kentucky data which is included starting with 1976, production would be 9 percent above last year). Acreage harvested is set at 22,500, which is 18 percent more than last year. Excluding Kentucky, acreage harvested was up only 1 percent. Yield at 82 cwt. compared with 79 cwt. for 1975.

TOMATOES. N. C. summer tomato acreage is estimated at 2,000 harvested acres. This is 100 acres more than in 1975. Yields averaged 145 cwt. per acre, down 5 cwt. Production, at 290,000 cwt., is 5,000 cwt. higher. The value of the 1976 tomato crop is estimated at $3.9 million, a 7 percent decrease.

Summer quarter tomato production in the U. S. for fresh market is placed at 7.3 million cwt., 2 percent above last year. Yield per acre at 145 cwt. was 2 cwt. more than in 1975 for major States.

WATERMELONS: N. C. summer watermelons were harvested from 8,500 acres, up 500 acres from last year. Yield was the same as last year at an average of 60 cwt. per acre. Production was up 6 percent at 510,000 cwt. Total value of the 1976 crop is set at $1.7 million, up 21 percent.

U. S. production of 11.8 million cwt. is estimated for the summer quarter watermelon crop. This is nearly the same as last year. Harvested acreage is placed at 129,500, 7 percent above last year. Yield per acre this quarter was 91 cwt., 6 cwt. below 1975.

OCTOBER MILK PRODUCTION UP

North Carolina dairy cows produced 143 million pounds of milk during October, an increase of 5 percent from a year earlier and up 8 percent from October 1974. This is an average of 920 pounds per cow, up 3 percent from October last year. The number of milk cows on farms, including dry cows, was 155,000 which is 2,000 more than were present during October 1975.

U. S. milk production in October 1976 of 9,685 million pounds was 5.6 percent above a year earlier and 6.5 percent above October 1974. Average production per cow at 876 pounds was 51 pounds more than a year earlier and 64 pounds above October 1974. The increase in rate per cow was only partially offset by a 0.6 percent decline from a year earlier in the number of milk cows. Milk cows increased 12,000 head from the previous month -- the first increase over the preceding month since December 1974.

The October U. S. milk-feed price ration, at 1.60, was 4.6 percent above September as milk prices were up and feed prices down. The October ratio was 2.6 percent above a year earlier as increased milk prices more than offset a slight increase in feed costs.

MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION -- OCTOBER

STATE	MILK COWS ON FARMS 1/			MILK PER COW 2/			MILK PRODUCTION			
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1976 As % Of 1975
	Thousands			*Pounds*			*Million Pounds*			*Percent*
N. C.	152	153	155	870	890	920	132	136	143	105
Va.	159	158	164	910	920	930	145	145	153	106
Md.	137	141	144	935	900	960	128	127	138	109
Ga.	130	129	129	745	775	820	97	100	106	106
Fla.	200	197	200	745	790	810	149	156	162	104
U. S.	11,200	11,116	11,053	812	825	876	9,091	9,173	9,685	106

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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NORTH CAROLINA Farm Report

Federal - State
Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

No. 718 December 10, 1976

NORTH CAROLINA PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DOWN

The ''All Farm Products'' index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets during November is 169, down 7 points from October and 5 points from November 1975.

The ''All Crops'' index declined 7 points from October. Grains dropped 11 points, the most of any crops. However, oil bearing crops were up 3 points.

The ''Livestock and Livestock products'' index was down 6 points from the October index. Meat animals dropped 10 points and poultry 5 points while the dairy index rose 2 points. (See Table On Page 2.)

OCTOBER EGG PRODUCTION DOWN

Egg production in North Carolina during October is estimated at 232 million, 3 percent lower than October 1975. The average number of layers on hand during the month decreased 3 percent to 11.6 million. However, the rate of lay increased slightly and totaled 2,003 eggs per 100 layers.

The nation's laying flocks produced 5.4 billion eggs during October, 4 percent above the previous month but slightly below October 1975. The number of layers during October averaged 276 million compared with 277 million a year earlier. The number of eggs produced per 100 layers during the month was virtually unchanged from October 1975. (See Table, Page 5.)

LARGE CROP AND LIVESTOCK SUPPLIES EXPECTED

Large supplies of crops and near-record livestock production are expected in the U. S. in the coming year. However, an expanding domestic market and another year of near-record exports will help to maintain prices and farm incomes by offsetting large supplies.

Crop supplies, except for soybeans, cotton, and some fruits and vegetables, will continue large relative to demand in the 1976/77 marketing year. Output of livestock products will be large, but will likely taper off and decline later next year if cattle numbers drop and beef production is reduced as expected. Prospects for next year's crops are, of course, uncertain at this time, But barring unexpected weather developments, crops should be large again, with some shifts in acreages of major crops. There are no program restraints for major crops, (although policy decisions on subsequent crops will have to be made) and large supplies of fertilizer and other inputs are available.

U. S. growers are completing the harvest of this year's big crops, giving us two large harvests back-to-back. Livestock production also is at a record rate, climaxing the recovery from the depressed output early in 1975. With large supplies and expanding domestic and foreign markets, most farmers have completed one of the highest income seasons of record. However, it was not a good year for some cattle operators and producers in drought areas, and food grain producers are facing problems now.

U. S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DOWN 5 POINTS. PRICES PAID INDEX DOWN 1 POINT

The Index of Prices Received by U. S. farmers decreased 5 points (3 percent) to 173 percent of its January-December 1967 average during the month ended November 15, 1976. Contributing most to the decrease since mid-October were lower prices for feed and food grains, grapefruit, hogs and cattle. Higher prices for eggs and soybeans were partially offsetting. The index was 11 points (6 percent) below a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates for November 15 was 193, down 1 point (½ percent) from a month earlier. Lower prices for feed, feeder livestock, and food more than offset higher prices for other index items. The index was 9 points (5 percent) above a year earlier.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARM PRICES INDEX NUMBERS

INDEX (1967 = 100)	Nov. 15 1973	Nov. 15 1974	Nov. 15 1975	Oct. 15 1976	Nov. 15 1976
NORTH CAROLINA					
Prices Received: All Farm Products....	3/ 156	3/ 176	174	176	169
All Crops.....	3/ 144	3/ 177	160	178	171
Tobacco.....	131	160	151	173	164
Cotton.....	3/ 205	3/ 205	197	*	*
Oil Bearing.....	174	3/ 226	171	205	208
Grains.....	177	241	183	172	161
Commercial Vegetables.....	3/ 160	3/ 163	3/ 183	3/ 164	165
Fruits.....	3/ 141	3/ 156	202	212	205
Livestock and Livestock Products.....	3/ 178	174	198	172	166
Meat Animals.....	206	3/ 170	216	164	154
Poultry.....	169	180	199	176	171
Dairy.....	3/ 162	3/ 162	169	170	172
UNITED STATES					
Prices Received, All Farm Products.....	181	182	3/ 184	178	173
Prices Paid, Commodities & Services 1/.	3/ 155	3/ 185	3/ 184	194	193
Parity Ratio 2/.....	3/ 119	102	3/ 100	92	90

*1/ Including Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid. 3/ Revised. *Discontinued.*

CROP, LIVESTOCK AND FEED PRICES MIXED

The average prices North Carolina farmers received for crops at local markets about mid-November were mixed. (See Table, Page 3.) Soybeans were up 11 cents to $6.27 per bushel, and oats rose 2 cents to $1.50 per bushel. Corn, at $2.21, dropped 16 cents per bushel.

Prices received for livestock were mostly down from October. Hogs were off $2.20 to $32.50 per hundredweight. Beef cattle and veal calves were down $1.50 and $2.50 per hundredweight, respectively. Milk cows increased $10.00 per head to $340.00.

Feed prices paid by Tar Heel farmers during November were also mixed. (See Table, Page 3.) Dairy feed (premixed) with 16 percent protein remained at $144.00 per ton, unchanged from October. Chick starter was down $3.00 per ton to $167.00, while broiler grower rose $2.00 per ton to $173.00. Turkey grower at $175.00 per ton was up $1.00. Bran dropped 10 cents per hundredweight to $7.70. Soybean meal (44 percent protein) was unchanged at $12.00 per hundredweight.

COMMODITY PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		Nov. 15 1975	Oct. 15 1976	Nov. 15 1976*	Nov. 15 1975	Oct. 15 1976	Nov. 15 1976*
		Dollars					
Tobacco	Lb.	.992	1.129	1.067	1.015	1.129	1.112
Corn	Bu.	2.46	2.37	2.21	2.33	2.33	2.02
Wheat	Bu.	3.06	-	-	3.58	2.59	2.46
Oats	Bu.	1.42	1.48	1.50	1.40	1.46	1.45
Barley	Bu.	1.94	-	-	2.43	2.22	2.11
Rye	Bu.	2.37	-	-	2.34	-	-
Sorghum Grains	Cwt.	4.10	-	-	4.05	3.68	3.30
Soybeans	Bu.	4.50	6.16	6.27	4.45	5.90	6.11
Peanuts	Lb.	.204	.195	.197	.195	.201	.202
Cotton	Lb.	.496	-	-	.495	.625	.635
Cottonseed	Ton	81.00	-	-	95.50	104.00	105.00
Wool	Lb.	-	-	-	.474	.767	.733
Hogs	Cwt.	51.40	34.70	32.50	49.10	32.90	31.10
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	22.70	25.70	24.20	32.30	31.80	31.10
Veal Calves	Cwt.	27.50	31.20	28.70	28.30	33.10	32.20
Milk Cows	Hd.	300.00	330.00	340.00	433.00	483.00	484.00
Com'l. Broilers	Lb.	.280	.210	.195	.270	.209	.193
Turkeys	Lb.	.400	.350	.350	.367	.307	.308
Eggs 1/	Doz.	.658	.716	.721	.582	.608	.653
Milk, Whlse	Cwt.	10.90	10.90	11.00	10.00	10.00	9.91
Potatoes	Cwt.	6.00	6.30	6.65	3.84	2.98	3.10
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt.	6.70	3.75	3.50	8.10	6.13	6.59
Apples, Com'l	Lb.	.070	.128	.121	.087	.126	.116
Hay, All	Ton	54.50	-	-	50.20	60.10	59.00
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	56.50	-	-	53.00	64.30	62.70
Other	Ton	54.50	-	-	44.20	50.40	50.70

*1/ Average of all eggs sold by farmers including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail by farmers. * Preliminary.*

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

TYPE OF FEED	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	Nov. 15 1975	Oct. 15 1976	Nov. 15 1976	Nov. 15 1975	Oct. 15 1976	Nov. 15 1976
	Per Ton. - Dollars					
Mixed Dairy Feed						
14% Protein	134.00	142.00	140.00	132.00	135.00	133.00
16% Protein	135.00	144.00	144.00	133.00	145.00	143.00
32% Protein	164.00	182.00	184.00	171.00	202.00	203.00
Poultry Feeds						
Chick Starter	163.00	170.00	167.00	160.00	178.00	174.00
Broiler Grower	167.00	171.00	173.00	158.00	170.00	169.00
Laying Feed 1/	148.00	156.00	154.00	143.00	154.00	151.00
Turkey Grower 1/	160.00	174.00	175.00	164.00	177.00	177.00
	Per 100 Lbs. - Dollars					
Grain By-Products						
Bran	7.40	7.80	7.70	7.17	7.72	7.69
Middlings	7.50	7.50	7.60	7.11	7.61	7.58
Corn Meal	7.00	6.60	6.40	6.62	6.82	6.42
High Protein Feeds						
Cottonseed Meal 41%	9.30	12.00	11.50	9.31	11.50	11.30
Soybean Meal 44%	9.10	12.00	12.00	8.75	11.60	11.50

1/ Complete ration feeds which are fed without further mixing or supplementations.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION INCREASES

The October commercial hatch in North Carolina, at 29.3 million chicks, increased 18 percent from October 1975. The broiler-type hatch increased 17 percent to 28.7 million chicks, and the egg-type hatch, at 550,000, more than doubled from October a year ago.

In the United States, the October hatch was up 7 percent from a year earlier for broiler-type and increased 5 percent for egg-type.

The number of broiler-type eggs in incubators on November 1, 1976, at 224.9 million, was 6 percent greater than a year earlier and egg-type, at 33.1 million, was 21 percent higher. In the South Atlantic states the number of broiler-type eggs in incubators was up 8 percent from November 1, 1975 and up 44 percent for egg-type.

CHICKS HATCHED -- OCTOBER

STATE	BROILER-TYPE		EGG-TYPE		ALL TYPES	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands					
North Carolina	24,521	28,720	252	550	24,773	29,270
South Carolina	2,031	2,309	672	868	2,703	3,177
Georgia	34,758	37,896	2,759	3,327	37,517	41,223
Florida	6,625	7,001	2,767	3,296	9,392	10,297
Delaware	12,203	13,542	1/	1/	12,203	13,542
Maryland	16,880	17,319	1/	1/	16,880	17,319
Virginia	7,512	7,826	673	579	8,185	8,405
UNITED STATES	249,920	267,172	34,801	36,498	284,721	303,670

1/ Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations.

U. S. POULT HATCH UP 9 PERCENT

The U. S. commercial hatch of turkey poults during October at 4.9 million was 9 percent more than a year ago. The hatch of heavy breeds was up 12 percent from the same month last year to 3.9 million poults and light breed poults hatched were virtually unchanged at 1.0 million.

The number of turkey eggs in incubators on November 1, at 7.6 million was 4 percent above last year. Eggs set for heavy breed turkeys were up 8 percent from last year but light breeds were down 9 percent.

POULTS HATCHED -- OCTOBER

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION (U.S.)	HEAVY BREEDS 1/		LIGHT BREEDS 2/		ALL BREEDS	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands					
North Atlantic	24	0	10	11	34	11
East North Central	443	434	155	186	598	620
West North Central	554	515	567	451	1,121	966
South Atlantic	1,538	1,873	276	249	1,814	2,122
South Central	460	439	0	0	460	439
West	438	610	0	112	438	722
UNITED STATES	3,457	3,871	1,008	1,009	4,465	4,880

1/ Birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is 12 pounds or over.
2/ Birds for which the normal mature marketing weight is less than 12 pounds.

NUMBER OF LAYERS AND EGG PRODUCTION -- OCTOBER

STATE	LAYERS ON HAND		EGGS PER 100 LAYERS		TOTAL EGGS PRODUCED	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thousands		*Number*		*Millions*	
North Carolina	11,950	11,600	1,990	2,003	238	232
Virginia	3,392	3,363	1,962	2,052	67	69
South Carolina	6,035	4,985	2,015	2,077	122	104
Georgia	22,900	24,345	2,003	2,031	459	494
Florida	12,133	12,474	1,984	2,006	241	250
UNITED STATES	277,152	275,980	1,966	1,965	5,448	5,424

PRICE WEAKNESS HOLDS FARM INCOME DOWN

Currently, U. S. farm prices and incomes are running at a rate somewhat below earlier this year and below the last half of 1975. Recent price weakness is expected to hold net farm income this calendar year down from earlier estimates to around the 1975 level--with a modest gain in realized net farm income and a small decline in total net income, if the downtrend in cattle numbers about offsets expected increases in inventories of other livestock and some crops.

In looking ahead to the latter part of 1977, returns to farmers will likely be better than the last half of 1976 and early 1977. This suggests that for calendar year 1977, average net farm income may be much the same as this year.

Major uncertainties for 1977 center about the expansion in domestic markets, the impact of the downswing in the cattle cycle on supplies and prices of meats, growing food grain stocks, and, as usual, weather and growing conditions here and abroad. Obviously, the outcome of these uncertainties can have major impacts on the general prosperity of U. S. farmers and on the cost of food, especially later in 1977 and in 1978.

U. S. TOTAL NET INCOME 1973-76

ITEM	1973		1974		1975		1976	
	Mktg. Year 1/	Calendar Year	Mktg. Year 1/	Calendar Year	Mktg. Year 1/	Calendar Year	Mktg. Year 1/	Calendar Year 2/
	Billion Dollars							
Cash Receipts	78.2	87.1	92.7	92.6	90.3	89.6	94.5	121
Livestock	43.0	46.0	43.9	41.4	40.9	42.9	47.5	47
Crops	35.2	41.1	48.1	51.2	49.4	46.6	47.0	48
Nonmoney, other income and govt. payments	8.6	8.4	7.8	7.6	8.4	8.6	9.0	9
Realized gross income	86.8	95.5	100.5	100.2	98.7	98.2	103.5	104
Production expenses	60.2	65.6	71.1	72.9	75.3	75.5	79.0	80
Realized net income	26.6	29.9	29.4	27.8	23.4	22.7	24.5	24
Inventory change	2.2	3.4	.8	-1.3	.9	2.9	1.2	-
Total net income	28.8	33.3	30.2	26.5	24.3	25.6	25.7	-

1/ October-September year ending with year indicated. 2/ Forecast.

OCTOBER SLAUGHTER DROPS

Commercial slaughter of livestock in North Carolina during October 1976 totaled 54,090,000 pounds live weight, a decrease of 3 percent from October a year earlier. The number of cattle slaughtered was 22,200 head, down 15 percent from October 1975. Calves slaughtered were up 13 percent to 900 head. Sheep and lambs killed, at 100 head, were unchanged from October a year ago. The number of hogs slaughtered was 152,000 head, a slight increase over October a year earlier.

The average live weight per head for cattle was 856 pounds, an increase of 12 pounds from October 1975; and for calves was 301 pounds, up 66 pounds per head. Hogs increased 6 pounds per head in average live weight to 229 pounds.

Commercial production of red meat in the United States totaled almost 3.5 billion pounds in October, 5 percent more than a year ago and 1 percent above October 1974. Total red meat output for January-October 1976 was up 7 percent from 1975. Changes by individual components are beef, up 9 percent; veal, down 2 percent; pork, up 4 percent; lamb and mutton, down 11 percent. Commercial meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER 1/

SPECIES	OCTOBER				JANUARY THROUGH OCTOBER			
	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	NORTH CAROLINA							
	Thous. Head		*Thous. Lbs.*		*Thous. Head*		*Thous. Lbs.*	
Cattle	26.0	22.2	21,944	19,003	176.6	183.6	153,798	165,247
Calves	.8	.9	188	271	6.1	7.4	1,438	1,845
Sheep & Lambs	.1	.1	10	8	.6	.6	54	57
Hogs	151.0	152.0	33,673	34,808	1401.0	1416.0	312,380	318,276
TOTAL	177.9	175.2	55,815	54,090	1584.3	1607.6	467,670	485,425
	UNITED STATES							
Cattle	*Million Head*		*Million Lbs.*		*Million Head*		*Million Lbs.*	
Cattle	4.0	3.7	3,917	3,731	33.8	35.6	33,702	36,268
Calves	.6	.5	171	132	4.2	4.4	1,204	1,169
Sheep & Lambs	.7	.6	78	63	6.7	5.6	695	609
Hogs	5.6	7.2	1,351	1,717	57.5	59.4	13,715	14,112
TOTAL	10.9	12.0	5,517	5,643	102.2	105.0	49,316	52,158

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

LEVEL OF U. S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS REMAINS HIGH

U. S. agricultural exports are expected to about equal the $22.8 billion exported during the previous fiscal year (October-September). Total export tonnage may be below the October 1975-September 1976 level, but higher prices for soybeans, oilseed products, and cotton will more than offset the volume decline.

The world grain supply situation has eased considerably. Production increases of about 12 percent for wheat and 6 percent for coarse grains are forecast for 1976/77. Rice production may decline slightly, following three successive record crops. World grain stocks are expected to increase about a fifth during 1976/77. Soviet grain production made an excellent recovery from the drought-stricken 1975 harvest.

Thus, foreign demand for U. S. grain has slackened. Fiscal 1977 U.S. grain exports may drop about 6½ million tons from year-earlier exports of 83 million tons.

Several factors are maintaining a high level of U. S. agricultural exports. European supplies of grains and other feeds were seriously reduced by drought last summer. At the same time, hog and poultry numbers are expanding in the European Community and Japan. Also, economic recovery is continuing in both the developed and developing countries.

Fiscal 1977 U. S. agricultural imports are expected to increase about 15 percent above 1975/76 imports of $10.5 billion. Thus, the surplus of agricultural trade will total about $11 billion in fiscal 1977, slightly below the $12.3 billion recorded during the prior 12-month period.

DESPITE SETBACK, WHEAT YIELDS HIGH

The hardiness of the wheat plant was once more evidenced as it weathered a series of adverse conditions and still yielded a 1976 U. S. wheat crop that narrowly missed setting a new record. U. S. growers planted 80.2 million acres of wheat, the largest acreage since 1949. Despite drought over much of the Plains which caused heavier than usual abandonment, harvested yields were only slightly below 1975 and production is estimated just short of 1975's record of 2,134 million bushels. However, a substantial increase in beginning stocks on June 1, in addition to the large crop, means that total supplies are the largest since the early 1960's.

Domestic use of wheat is expected to climb about 10 to 15 percent from last season's 729 million bushels. This increase will come from livestock and poultry feeding, which is estimated to be more than double last year's 75 million bushels, since wheat prices have been unusually low relative to feed grains. Little change is expected in wheat's food use.

June-September exports totaled about 400 million bushels compared to 429 for that period in 1975/76. With larger wheat crops around the world, exports for the year are expected to range from 1.0 to 1.2 billion bushels, compared to last year's 1,173 million. Balancing supply and disappearance, ending stocks are estimated to be in the 780 to 960 million-bushel range, up from 664 million last season. This would be the third consecutive increase in wheat carryover.

World wheat production in 1976 is expected to total a record crop about 15 percent above last year's crop of 349 million metric tons. The increase is due largely to the Soviet Union's dramatic recovery in wheat production and to Canada's outstanding season which resulted in a 38 percent increase to a new record high. A sharp increase in Argentina's wheat area may result in a crop about a fifth above last year's and the largest in over ten years. The European winter wheat crop escaped the ravages of last summer's drought;

(See Wheat Yields, Page 8)

WHEAT YIELDS *(Continued From Page 7)*

Western Europe harvested 5 percent more wheat and Eastern Europe gained 12 percent. Among the major exporters only Australia will harvest a significantly smaller wheat crop this season. The record world crop, which also includes better crops in some traditional importing countries, will likely lead to a reduction in world trade of about 5 percent.

After a bullish start, the 1976/77 wheat crop year turned bearish in the August-October period. Surprisingly high wheat prices early in the season gave way to a prolonged decline in prices which only recently appeared to have bottomed out at the lowest level in 3 years. Over a 3-month period market prices lost over a dollar. For the season, it now appears that farm prices may average between $2.75 and $3.25 per bushel.

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NORTH CAROLINA Farm Report

Federal - State
Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

No. 720 December 20, 1976

FARM ACTIVITIES MAKE GOOD PROGRESS DESPITE RECORD COLD WEATHER

November temperatures were the coldest of record, averaging 42 degrees. But moderate amounts of rainfall gave farmers generally favorable weather for field work. By the end of the month, harvesting and planting activities were generally on schedule or ahead of normal.

Rains during the second week of December increased soil moisture and, as of December 11, supplies averaged mostly adequate to surplus. Excess amounts of moisture were reported all over the State but the Piedmont seemed to be the wettest area.

Corn harvest continued through November and by December 11 about 97 percent had been harvested. This was the same as the 1975 progress but 4 percentage points ahead of normal. Soybean harvest accelerated toward the end of November and, as of December 11, combining was 84 percent complete. This was the normal rate of progress and the same as the 1975 pace. Sorghum grain harvest was essentially completed by early December.

Seeding of small grain was well behind normal in early November but planting accelerated throughout the month and, as of December 11, 95 percent of the 1977 wheat crop had been seeded. This was about the same as the 1975 progress but 5 points ahead of normal. Planting of oats, barley and rye was also about 95 percent complete. Crop conditions averaged fair to good during November for all the small grains, but cold temperatures inhibited germination and, as of December 11, stands averaged mostly fair to good. Some heaving was reported in the Mountains and northern Piedmont.

1976 WHEAT CROP SMALLER

Winter wheat production in North Carolina during 1976 totaled an estimated 6,960,000 bushels, down 18 percent from the revised 1975 output of 8,525,000 bushels. Harvested acreage in 1976 at 240,000 was 35,000 acres below 1975.

The 1976 U. S. winter wheat production of 1.57 billion bushels was the second highest of record and 5 percent less than the 1975 record crop. The crop was harvested from 49.5 million acres.

BARLEY DECLINE CONTINUES

North Carolina barley production declined for the third consecutive year in 1976. The crop totaled 2,340,000 bushels, down 9 percent from the revised 1975 total of 2,565,000 bushels. Harvested acreage at 60,000 was up 3,000 acres, but yields averaging 39 bushels per acre compared to 45 bushels in 1975 more than offset the gain.

The 1976 production of barley in the U. S. totaled 377 million bushels, 2 percent below the 1975 crop, but 24 percent above the short 1974 crop.

1976 OATS CROP SMALLER

An estimated 3,600,000 bushels of oats were produced in North Carolina during 1976 from 80,000 acres. This compares with the revised 1975 production of 4,000,000 bushels, also from 80,000 acres. Yields averaged 45 bushels per acre which was down 5 bushels from the 1975 rate.

The 1976 production of oats in the nation is estimated at 562 million bushels, 14 percent below the 1975 crop and 8 percent below the 1974 crop.

COTTON: Record Bale Per Acre Expected

Based on reports from growers and ginners around December 1, North Carolina's cotton crop is expected to total 68,000 bales--8,000 more than forecast a month earlier and 22,000 above 1975's short outturn. The increase in production is a result of higher yields, now expected to average a bale per acre (480 pounds) for the first time ever. This is 68 pounds more than realized in 1975. Harvested acreage is indicated at 68,000 acres.

U. S. production of all cotton is forecast at 10.3 million bales, up 4 percent from November 1 and 24 percent above 1975. Expected production consists of 10.2 million bales of Upland cotton and 51,000 bales of American Pima. Cottonseed production, based on a three year average lint-seed ratio, is forecast at 3.9 million tons, 30 percent more than in 1975.

Growers expect to harvest 10.9 million acres of all cotton for 1976, above 1975 by 24 percent. Average lint yield per acre is forecast at 451 pounds, 2 pounds less than that produced in 1975.

DRY WEATHER HURTS STATE'S BURLEY CROP

Reports from growers around December 1 indicate the 1976 burley crop in North Carolina will total about 18.9 million pounds, unchanged from November's forecast but 16 percent below 1975's output. Reduced sharply by dry weather, yields are expected to average 2,100 pounds per acre, off the 1975 rate by 340 pounds.

Production of burley tobacco in the U. S. is forecast at 646 million pounds, up 2 percent from a month earlier and 1 percent above the 1975 crop of 639 million pounds. Yield per acre is expected to average 2,314 pounds, up from the 2,265 pounds realized in 1975.

COTTON REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 1, 1976

STATE	ACRES HARVESTED			LINT PER ACRE			PRODUCTION 480-Lb. Net Wt. Bales		
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976
	Thousand Acres			*Pounds*			*Thousand Bales*		
UPLAND									
North Carolina	145	53	68	440	412	480	133	46	68
South Carolina	292	103	165	450	454	436	274	98	150
Georgia	410	160	240	490	443	400	419	148	200
Tennessee	510	315	390	290	339	271	308	222	220
Alabama	585	370	440	429	405	382	522	312	350
Missouri	330	210	255	335	449	311	230	196	165
Mississippi	1,710	1,100	1,470	448	454	371	1,595	1,040	1,135
Arkansas	1,130	680	950	374	485	389	880	687	770
Louisiana	635	310	545	423	535	480	560	346	545
Oklahoma	547	295	335	272	277	244	310	170	170
Texas	4,400	3,900	4,500	269	293	320	2,462	2,382	3,000
New Mexico	140	85	65	509	382	443	148	68	60
Arizona	392	268	318	1,218	1,027	1,192	995	573	790
California	1,238	875	1,120	1,006	1,072	1,106	2,595	1,954	2,580
Other 1/	20.3	6.1	9.2	449	393	522	19	5	10
U. S. UPLAND 2/	12,484	8,730	10,870	440	453	451	11,450	8,247	10,213
U. S. AM. PIMA 3/	82.3	65.9	44.0	526	397	556	90	55	51
U. S. ALL	12,567	8,796	10,914	441	453	451	11,540	8,302	10,264

1/ Virginia, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky and Nevada. 2/ Sum of State totals above. 3/ Includes total American Pima in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California; not included in individual State data above.

COTTON OUTLOOK UNCERTAIN

The recent pause in the U. S. general economic recovery is having repercussions on domestic textile activity. Fiber consumption has been adversely affected by sluggish retail textile sales during recent months and resulting production cutbacks. Still, U. S. mill consumption of all fibers during calendar 1976 is expected to total around 11½ billion pounds, up a tenth from last year's depressed level. The outlook for 1977 is for moderate gains in total fiber use as higher consumer incomes and employment spur textile sales.

Cotton's share of the 1977 U. S. textile market may slip somewhat, reflecting tight supplies and market losses to manmade fibers. With the smallest cotton supply in 53 years, strong export demand, and prices currently around 50 percent above manmade fiber staples, mills are expected to increase manmade fiber use at the expense of cotton. Since 1973, cotton's share of total fiber consumption has remained close to 30 percent.

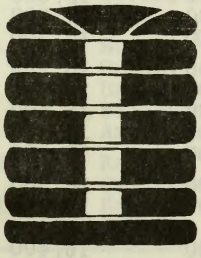
Given current price relationships between cotton and competing crops, cotton acreage next spring is likely to increase from this year. However, the exact level of production is very uncertain. More normal yields would certainly strengthen the production outlook. A preliminary 1977 upland loan rate for Middling 1-inch cotton was recently set at 42.58 cents per pound, up 5.46 cents from the current loan.

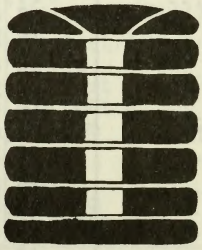
It now appears that we will be entering the 1977-78 season next August 1 with a marginally adequate cotton carryover of around 3 million bales, down from 3.7 million on August 1, 1976, and the smallest since 1952. The reduction stems from a disappointing 1976 crop of a half-million bales or so below anticipated 1976-77 disappearance.

The tightening supply situation is putting increased pressure on cotton prices. As of early November, the spot market price of base grade SLM 1-1/16-inch cotton was nearly 80 cents per pound, up from 70 cents on August 1, and over 25 cents above a year earlier. Prices received by farmers have also strengthened, averaging 62½ cents in October.

These higher prices are placing cotton at a real disadvantage, vis-a-vis manmade fibers. Despite relatively strong demand, U. S. mill consumption of cotton this season may decline to about 6.6 million bales (+5 percent) from 1975-76's 7¼ million. Early-season use was off considerably, and further declines are likely as mills seek to cover their needs by increasing the percentage of manmade fibers in blends. Continuing record-large cotton textile imports are also competing virgorously with U. S. mill use for domestic markets.

U. S. raw cotton export prospects remain bright. Shipments may total 4.1 to 4.7 million bales during 1976-77, up from 3.3 million last season. Increased exports reflect continuing modest recovery in foreign textile activity, coupled with extremely tight cotton supplies abroad. With the United States and the USSR as the only countries with significant export availabilities this season, we may garner about a fourth of global cotton trade, up from 18 percent in 1975-76.





TOBACCO OUTLOOK REVIEWED

The outlook for 1977 is highlighted by increasing tobacco supplies both in the United States and overseas, according to Dr. Robert H. Miller, Agricultural Economist, Economic Research Service, USDA. ''Prospects are for U. S. cigarette consumption to increase from this year's record-high level but our leaf exports will do well to hold near recent high levels. So, despite the smaller U. S. crop this season, it exceeds prospective use and our carryover stocks may increase.''

''Cigarettes take four-fifths of the tobacco used in the United States and account for an even higher share of our exports. U. S. cigarette output should reach a record 700 billion cigarettes this year, 8 percent above 1975. The number of cigarettes consumed per person, 18 years and over, in 1976, is staying about the same as last year when 4,121 cigarettes (207 packs) were used. In fact, per capita use hasn't changed much in the past 3 years despite changes in income and employment levels. Next year U. S. smokers may smoke a few more in total than in 1976 as the smoking age population increases.''

''Retail cigarette prices are averging 4 percent higher in 1975, due to increases in manufacturers' prices and in wholesale-retail margins. But the hike for cigarettes is less than the rise in consumer prices generally. This

(See Tobacco, Page 5)

CORN CROPPING PRACTICES: Plant Population Per Acre Increasing

The Statistical Reporting Service collects objective information monthly during the forecast period on corn development and yields for the crop production estimates program. Counts and measurements are made by trained enumerators during visits to the random plots in a scientific sampling of fields in selected States. Information in the following table represents sample data and averages obtained from these counts about October 1. The resulting data which are subject to some sampling fluctuation, are not official Crop Reporting Board estimates but do show trends in corn cropping practices over a period of years.

The trend in recent years has been upward in plant population per acre although in 1975 most Corn Belt States showed slight to moderate declines. In 1976, plant population turned up as all but four responding States in the objective yield program showed increases.

CORN FOR GRAIN: Plant Population Per Acre, Selected States, 1972-76 1/

STATE	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
	Number Of Plants				
Colorado	20,700	20,800	21,000	20,500	21,400
Delaware	15,700	15,900	16,900	15,600	16,600
Georgia	11,700	11,800	11,600	11,500	12,900
Illinois	19,100	19,100	18,600	18,400	20,100
Indiana	18,300	17,900	18,700	18,000	19,500
Iowa	19,200	18,900	18,600	18,500	18,800
Kansas	17,000	17,500	18,000	17,500	18,700
Kentucky	14,100	15,300	15,400	15,000	16,100
Maryland	17,400	16,400	16,400	17,000	17,300
Michigan	18,500	16,900	16,900	17,300	16,200
Minnesota	19,000	18,300	18,200	18,200	18,000
Missouri	15,300	15,300	15,500	14,500	14,500
Nebraska	16,900	15,400	16,400	15,400	16,700
NORTH CAROLINA	15,600	15,300	16,900	15,200	17,000
Ohio	18,200	18,200	18,900	18,200	18,600
Pennsylvania	15,800	16,100	16,500	16,500	17,300
S. Dakota	12,800	12,600	12,800	12,800	12,600
Texas	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	20,700
Virginia	14,900	15,900	16,400	16,400	17,500
Wisconsin	19,400	18,300	18,500	17,900	18,200

1/ Based on stalk counts in plots selected for objective yield samples.

SOYBEANS: Leading Varieties Grown In 1976

The Statistical Reporting Service conducts soybean objective yield surveys in 14 States. Plots are randomly selected from a scientifically drawn sample of soybean fields which are visited monthly from about August 1 through harvest. Plant and fruit counts, including pod weights at maturity, indicate crop development and yield prospects as the season advances.

Sample data and the derived percentages from the objective yield surveys presented in the following table are not official estimates of the Crop Reporting Board but are intended to show trends in soybean production practices.

Williams was the leading soybean variety in the 14 States for 1976, accounting for 8.5 percent of the soybean acreage in those States. Williams, grown in the North Central States, ranked third a year ago behind Bragg and Corsoy. Bragg dropped to second place in 1976 after leading the 14 State group for two consecutive years. It is grown primarily in the Southern States. Forrest, a variety grown in all producing areas but more widely used in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee moved up to third place from ninth position in 1975. Corsoy and Wayne dropped to fourth and fifth place from second and fourth, respectively.

TOBACCO (Cont'd. From Page 4)

year none of the States raised their cigarette taxes, so the overall average has virtually stabilized. Despite a decline in the overall inflation rate, further cigarette price increases are likely. There are more people of smoking age and antismoking publicity remains at a moderate level. In the past few years about half the States and numerous cities and counties have enacted laws and ordinances that limit smoking in public places. But the effect on smoking incidence is probably marginal.''

''U. S. exports of tobacco and tobacco products in 1976 are gaining a little from last year's record high value to around $1.4 billion. Both volume and average value are up. Value of both unmanufactured tobacco and tobacco products exports are expected to exceed last year's record highs, $852 million and $401 million, respectively. In recent years leaf and product exports have taken about four-tenths of the U. S. tobacco crop. This year U. S. tobacco exports will register about a $1.1 billion surplus over tobacco imports for consumption of about $325 million. This favorable tobacco trade balance along with the high level of sales for other agricultural products is helping offset the country's trade deficit in nonagricultural products.''

SOYBEANS: Distribution Of Major Varieties, Selected States, Percent Of Acreage Harvested, 1976 Crop 1/

STATE	LEADING VARIETIES BY PERCENT OF ACREAGE HARVESTED					
	First		Second		Third	
	NAME	PER.	NAME	PER.	NAME	PER.
Arkansas	Pickett 2/	24.4	Lee	16.5	Forrest	15.2
Illinois	Williams	25.1	Amsoy 2/	17.3	Wayne	12.8
Indiana	Williams	25.0	Wayne	13.7	Cutler 2/	9.7
Iowa	Corsoy	34.2	Wayne	10.8	Wells	8.2
Kansas	Dare	18.4	Clark 2/	17.3	Columbus/Williams 3/	10.2
Louisiana	Bragg	30.7	Davis	13.4	Forrest/Lee 3/	9.4
Minnesota	Corsoy	42.6	Hodgson	15.5	Swift	11.6
Mississippi	Bragg	29.0	Lee	16.7	Forrest	15.2
Missouri	Williams	19.1	Clark 2/	14.2	Forrest	12.3
Nebraska	Amsoy 2/ 4/	15.1	Wayne 4/	15.1	Beeson	12.3
NORTH CAROLINA	Ramsom	32.4	Lee	21.1	Bragg	15.5
Ohio	Calland	15.5	Williams	13.8	Wayne	9.5
South Carolina	Bragg	31.1	Hampton 2/	13.5	Ransom	12.2
Tennessee	Forrest	35.6	York	22.1	Pickett 2/	13.5

1/ Reported for sample fields used for obtaining objective yield data. 2/ Includes varieties which have additional numerical indications such as Clark "64", Amsoy "71", Etc. 3/ Tied for first place. 4/ Tied for third place.

EXPECTATIONS FAVORABLE FOR FARM INCOME, ASSETS AND FINANCING

Both farmers and their lenders in the United States had a relatively good year in 1976, with the major exceptions of many livestock producers and producers in drought areas. Farm incomes are expected to average about the same as in 1975, despite large fluctuations that have occurred during this year. Asset values and equities of farm owners throughout the Nation continued to increase this year largely because of increases in real estate values.

Farm income in 1977 is expected to average around the relatively favorable 1976 level. Uncertainties center on the strength of foreign demands for major food and feed crops, on U. S. and world food production, on the domestic economic recovery and related demands for farm products and on the impact of the continuing downturn in the cattle cycle on market supplies and prices of meats.

The value of assets as shown in the balance sheet of the farming sector is expected to reach $634 billion by the end of 1976, a gain of $49 billion during the year. While this rise is below the 1975 increase of $65 billion, it will far exceed this year's net farm income. A slower rate of increase in farmland values and the decline in livestock inventory values in the year (following the large gain in 1975) contributed to the less rapid gain in asset values in 1976.

The value of farmland (a major component of farm assets) apparently rose about 9 percent in 1976, compared with a 14 percent gain in 1975. Even in areas of severe drought or where livestock production remained unprofitable for a second or third consecutive year, land values apparently continued upward. Such increases in asset values are frequently used by farm owners as the basis of refinancing debts to higher levels.

Total farm debt outstanding is expected to reach $102 billion by the end of 1976, an increase of about $11 billion (12 percent). Both real estate and nonreal estate debt rose more this year than last. The gain in total debt has been a little faster than the rise in asset values, and the debt-to-asset ratio rose slightly to about 16 percent. This ratio has been relatively stable over the last decade.

Real estate loan demand was strong during 1976 and lenders were more actively seeking loans. Life insurance company lending has increased considerably this year and banks and production credit associations recorded larger gains in their nonreal estate loans than in 1975.

Loan activity of merchants and dealers, particularly those selling farm machinery, was stronger than in other recent years as selling competition increased. Farmers Home Administration emergency loans rose further during the year as drought cut crop production across fairly large areas. Interest rates on farm loans showed mixed trends during the year and remained much higher than in most years before 1975.

Loan volume is expected to rise further in 1977 for most types of operating loans and for real estate loans. Loans for farm machinery rose in 1976 and are expected to rise further next year, and cattle feeding loans are also expected to increase.

Among individual farm types, income conditions and prospects varied widely in 1976. All types were reported to have experienced increased farm property values and were expected to reap some further gains during 1977. Incomes have been most favorable for dairy, poultry, (except turkey), cotton and tobacco producers. Wheat producers incomes reflect large supplies, lower prices, and rising carryover stocks. Many meat animal producers have continued to experience relatively low net returns and some have suffered losses. With the selloff of cattle herds, this unfavorable situation will start to be corrected in 1977.

It appears that loan funds will be available to meet the enlarged demands at rates of interest near late 1976 levels. Some cash flow problems related to debt repayment capacity are expected. Renewals and loan extensions have been higher and lenders consider that farm lending is becoming more risky.

Based on the current expectation that the net income position of farmers in 1977 will be about the same as in 1976, capital expenditures are expected to increase at about the same rate as in 1976. Expenditures for purchases of real estate assets should also increase.

WORLD SITUATION STIMULATES U. S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

Recent reduction in grain production estimates for Western Europe, Eastern Europe, and the United States have not seriously altered forecasts of a general easing of tight world food supplies.

Although the impact of drought on European feed and forage crops is forcing increased grain imports and adjustments in their livestock industries, the USSR's agricultural performance is much improved over last year and North American output is likely to be up despite drought in some areas.

The developing countries are generally experiencing the second consecutive year of good crops, although erratic rainfall at the end of the Asian monsoon could blunt advances there. These gains have permitted some rebuilding of stocks and some recovery in consumption from recent depressed per capita levels.

U. S. agricultural exports in fiscal 1977 are expected to nearly equal the $22.15 billion shipped in fiscal 1976. While export volume is likely to decline because of generally improved crops around the world, prices are expected to be stronger for soybeans, natural fibers, and oilmeal. The quickened pace of growth in the world economy also should stimulate U. S. farm exports.

World wheat, milled rice, and coarse grain production forecast for 1976-77 is up 5 percent to a record level matching the 15-year trend, following 2 years of mediocre or poor crops. A 1.5 percent increase in harvested area and generally favorable weather are largely responsible for the increase.

Grain consumption, however, is expected to grow less rapidly than production in 1976-77 due largely to relatively unfavorable livestock feed-price ratios in many of the developed countries. Only the European Community and the Soviet Union are now expected to increase feeding substantially. The bulk of increases in consumption of food grains will be in the low income countries--particularly the developing market economies of Africa and Asia--but despite increases in per capita intake there, per capita levels will still likely lag previously achieved modest peaks.

World trade in grain is expected to fall off somewhat because of better crops in the USSR and a number of developing market economies of Africa and Asia despite some drought-induced increases in imports into Western and Eastern Europe.

World carryover stocks of wheat, milled rice, and coarse grains could increase as much as two-fifths at the end of 1976-77 to about 144 million tons--about 10 to 12 percent of projected annual world consumption. Many grain importing countries appear to be making a greater effort than in the past to build up stocks, although the major exporters will still carry by far the largest share.

Production of most oilseeds rose substantially during the 1975-76 marketing season, particularly of soybeans whose output increased sharply in the United States. Global production records were achieved for fats and oils and for high protein meals. World trade in these products also increased substantially. Prospects for 1976-77 oilseed production are varied; U. S. soybean and Canadian rape-seed output are expected to be down, while Brazilian soybeans and Malaysian palm oil will likely reach new record highs.

World trade in meat continues restricted in the face of rising production in major beef exporting countries of the Southern Hemisphere. With slaughter rates increasing, herd numbers are either leveling off or declining there, as in the United States where a cyclical downswing in cattle inventories is underway. The European Community--once the world's largest beef importing region--is less likely to expand imports than expected earlier this year because of a cyclical high in beef output and drought-induced increases in slaughter that have resulted in government measures to support domestic beef prices.

Cotton consumption is expected to exceed world production in 1976-77 despite a 10 to 12 percent recovery in output. World cotton stocks should therefore decline for the second year in a row, but still amount to more than one-third of anticipated 1976-77 consumption. Usage of cotton is slowing because of high prices, lower availabilities, and competition from man-made fibers.

NOVEMBER MILK PRODUCTION INCREASES

Milk produced on North Carolina farms during November is estimated at 141 million pounds, up 4 percent from a year earlier and an increase of 9 percent from November 1974. It is estimated that 153,000 milk cows produced this milk at the rate of 920 pounds per cow. This compares to 153,000 milk cows producing 890 pounds per cow in November 1975.

U. S. November 1976 milk production at 9.2 billion pounds was 4.6 percent above a year earlier and 6.6 percent above November 1974. Average production per cow at 836 pounds was 41 pounds more than a year earlier and 63 pounds above November 1974. Milk cows, estimated at 11,037,000 head during November, were down 0.6 percent from a year ago and 16,000 head below the preceding month.

The November U. S. milk-feed price ratio, at 1.64 was 1.8 percent below a year earlier due to slightly increased feed cost and lower milk prices. The November ratio was 2.5 percent above last month as a lower ration value more than offset the drop in milk prices.

MILK COWS AND MILK PRODUCTION--NOVEMBER

STATE	MILK COWS ON FARMS 1/			MILK PER COW 2/			MILK PRODUCTION			
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1976 AS% Of 1975
	Thousands			*Pounds*			*Million Pounds*			*Percent*
N.C.	152	153	153	850	890	920	129	136	141	104
Va.	159	159	165	865	890	910	138	142	150	106
Md.	138	141	144	920	880	925	127	124	133	107
Ga.	130	129	129	730	765	815	95	99	105	106
Fla.	200	197	200	735	790	800	147	156	160	103
U.S.	11,197	11,100	11,037	773	795	836	8,658	8,823	9,232	105

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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